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July 1993

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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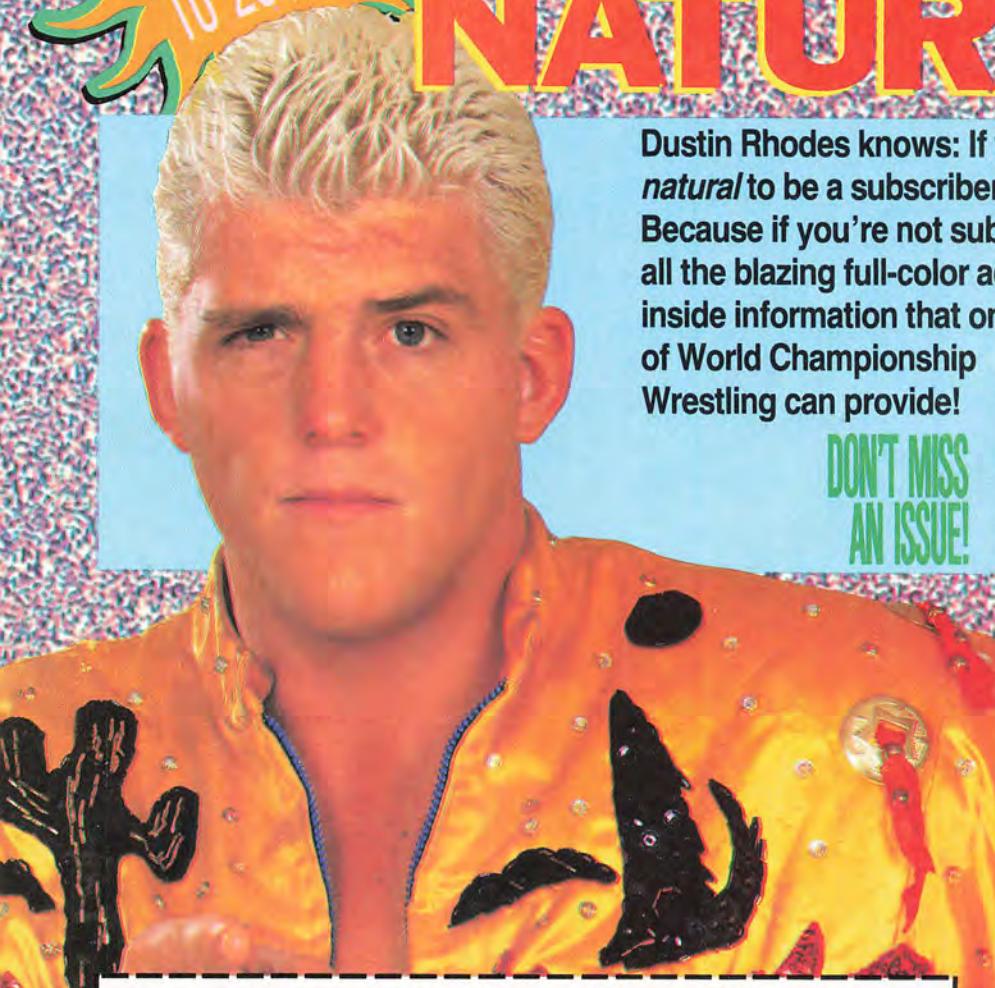
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JULY 1993

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We hadn't spoken to the WCW World champion in some time, and if it were up to Harley Race, it would have been longer. The former football star opened up about titles, Sting, and the "pain game."

28 WWF CHAMPION BRET HART: HE DOESN'T TAKE ANY CHALLENGE LYING DOWN

Since winning the belt from Ric Flair, the "Hitman" has been a fighting champion. He has taken on every challenge and repelled them all.

32 EGOMANIA! WHY RIC FLAIR AND RICK RUDE CAN'T COEXIST IN WCW

No one loves either of these men as much as they love themselves, which is probably why they have spent very little time in the same federation. Don't expect that to last.

39 NOW IT CAN BE TOLD! WHY PAUL BEARER SACRIFICED THE UNDERTAKER TO YOKOZUNA

The spooky manager saw Undertaker losing his killer instinct, so he matched him against Yokozuna, an opponent who could restore Undertaker's aura.

42 DON'T JERK US AROUND, HULK—ARE YOU BACK OR NOT?

WrestleMania, then a movie. Now, WrestleMania again, then perhaps a television pilot. Then what? After supporting Hulk Hogan for a decade, the fans deserve to know what his future plans are.

46 SLAMBOREE '93 OLD-TIMERS' DAY—with a twist

History will meet the present at this WCW pay-per-view, the culmination of a weekend-long event in which fans will get to pal around with their favorites from the mat world, both young and not so young.

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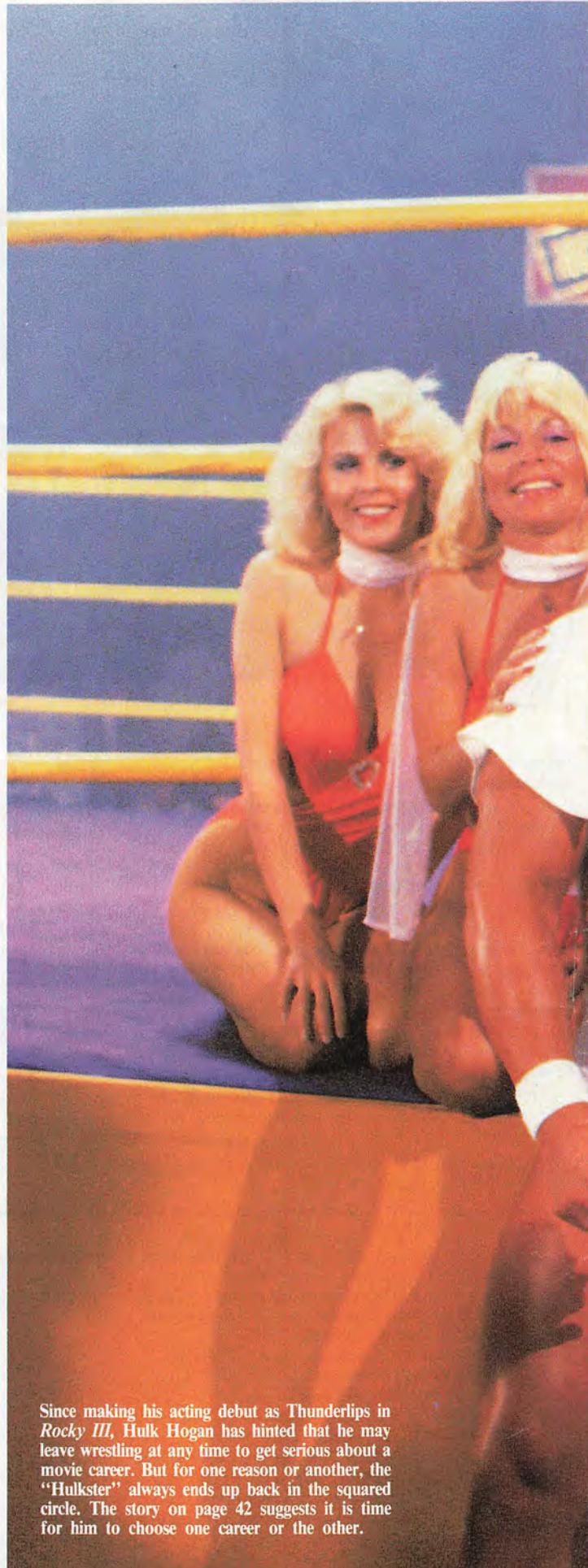
The most comprehensive collection of match results anywhere

68 WRESTLING ENQUIRER

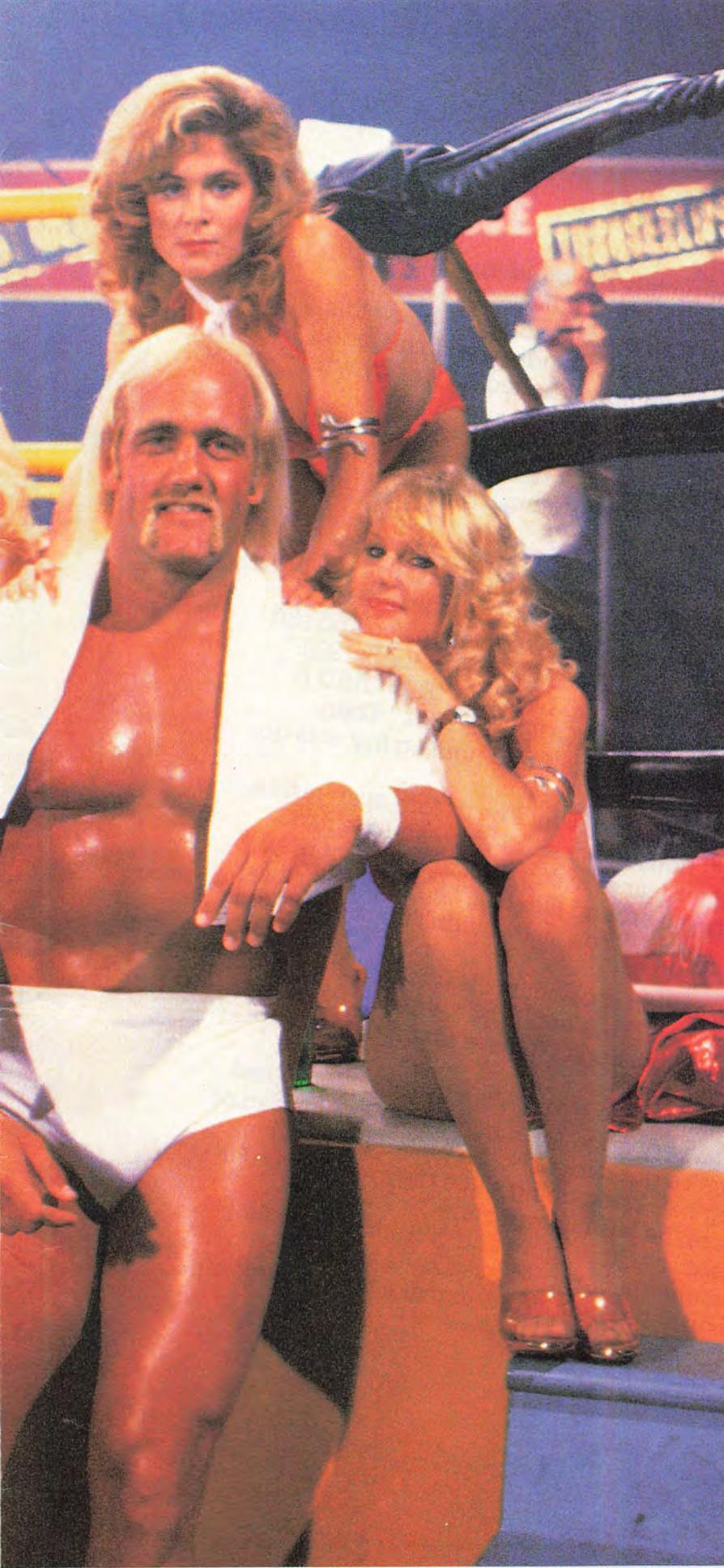
Immediate, late-breaking news

70 PWI HOT SHOT

Lightning strikes!



Since making his acting debut as Thunderlips in *Rocky III*, Hulk Hogan has hinted that he may leave wrestling at any time to get serious about a movie career. But for one reason or another, the "Hulkster" always ends up back in the squared circle. The story on page 42 suggests it is time for him to choose one career or the other.



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*Next issue of
Pro Wrestling Illustrated
on sale June 1*

Pro Wrestling Illustrated (ISSN 1043-7576) is published monthly by London Publishing Co., 7002 West Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Second-class postage paid at Rockville Centre, NY, 11571 and additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address notices to "Pro Wrestling Illustrated," P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. Single copy price: \$2.50 (\$2.95 in Canada, £1.95 in U.K.). We are not responsible for the loss or nonreturn of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (310) 572-7272. U.S. & Canadian distribution by Capital Distributing Company, 201 East 57th St., New York, NY 10022; International distribution (excluding U.K.) by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY, 10010; U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77OE, England. Printed in U.S.A.

from the desk of...

Stuart M. Saks

The 8 millimeter film had completely rewound from the takeup reel, its end flipping uncontrollably with each rotation.

I wanted to tell my host to flip off the projector, but I knew this was not the time to talk. Tommy Gilbert's hands were in his face. He wasn't crying, but you could see how touched he was by what he had just seen.

"Tommy," I said softly. "Tommy?"

He didn't hear me. I felt terribly uncomfortable. Eventually, the film started to work its way off the reel, forming a puddle of brown spaghetti at his feet. I had to say something.

"Let me get that," I said, turning off the projector.

"Oh, my!" a startled Gilbert said. "Look at this mess! I've got to get this stuff put on videotape."

Tommy Gilbert carefully rolled the film back into place and slid it into a thin box clearly marked "EDWARD & DOUGLAS: 1969." He stood and placed the box in the gap between "EDWARD & DOUGLAS: 1968" and "EDWARD & DOUGLAS: 1970." There were a lifetime of memories on that shelf, and nothing that was going on in 1993 was going to erase them.

Still, Tommy Gilbert, as any father would be, is torn apart inside. There is war in the Gilbert household—civil war—and the man who must remain neutral for fear of losing one, or both, is numb.

"Looking at my boys horse around like that," he said, referring to the 25-year-old home movie. "You just wouldn't think this could happen."

But the reality of the situation is painfully clear to the elder Gilbert. He saw it coming when Doug and Eddie, wrestling as a tag team for the first time in years, began to have minor disagreements over strategy.

"I saw it for the first time in the gym," Tommy said. "Doug had an idea—and it wasn't a very good idea, mind you—but instead of explaining why it wasn't a good idea, Eddie pulled rank on him, the same kind of thing he's been doing since they were kids. But Doug's no kid anymore; he has his own mind."

As the disagreements became more and more frequent, their teamwork during matches suffered. While Eddie and Doug seemed to have a sixth sense over when to make tags or perform

(Continued on page 60)

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next

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Actual questions

Which young WCW star is known as "The Natural"?

- 1) Steve Austin
- 2) Scotty the Body
- 3) Dustin Rhodes
- 4) Robert Redford

Who portrayed Thunderlips in the film *Rocky III*?

- 1) Hulk Hogan
- 2) Lou Albano
- 3) Jesse Ventura
- 4) Rick Martel

Which of the following wrestlers is "Ravishing"?

- 1) Ron Ritchie
- 2) Dusty Rhodes
- 3) Rick Steamboat
- 4) Rick Rude

True or False: Jesse Ventura was a member of the elite Navy Seals?

- 1) True
- 2) False

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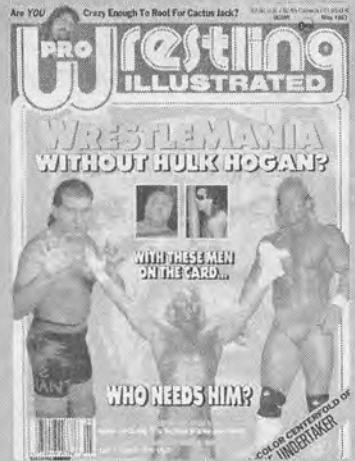
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HE'S BACK!

Our May 1993 issue featured the cover story, "WrestleMania Without Hulk Hogan? Who Needs Him?" We knew it would cause controversy with some of our readers. Of course, just days after sending the magazine to press, Hogan returned to the WWF and signed to appear at WrestleMania IX. As usual, you were quick to respond with a series of opposing viewpoints.

"I was so excited to finally enjoy a WrestleMania without that raving egomaniac, Hulk Hogan," wrote P.J. Kennedy of Stamford, Connecticut. "You can imagine my disgust when I heard this has-been and his bionic buddy were getting an unwarranted shot at the tag team belts."

Despite several letters echoing this sentiment, the Hulkamaniacs responded in full force.

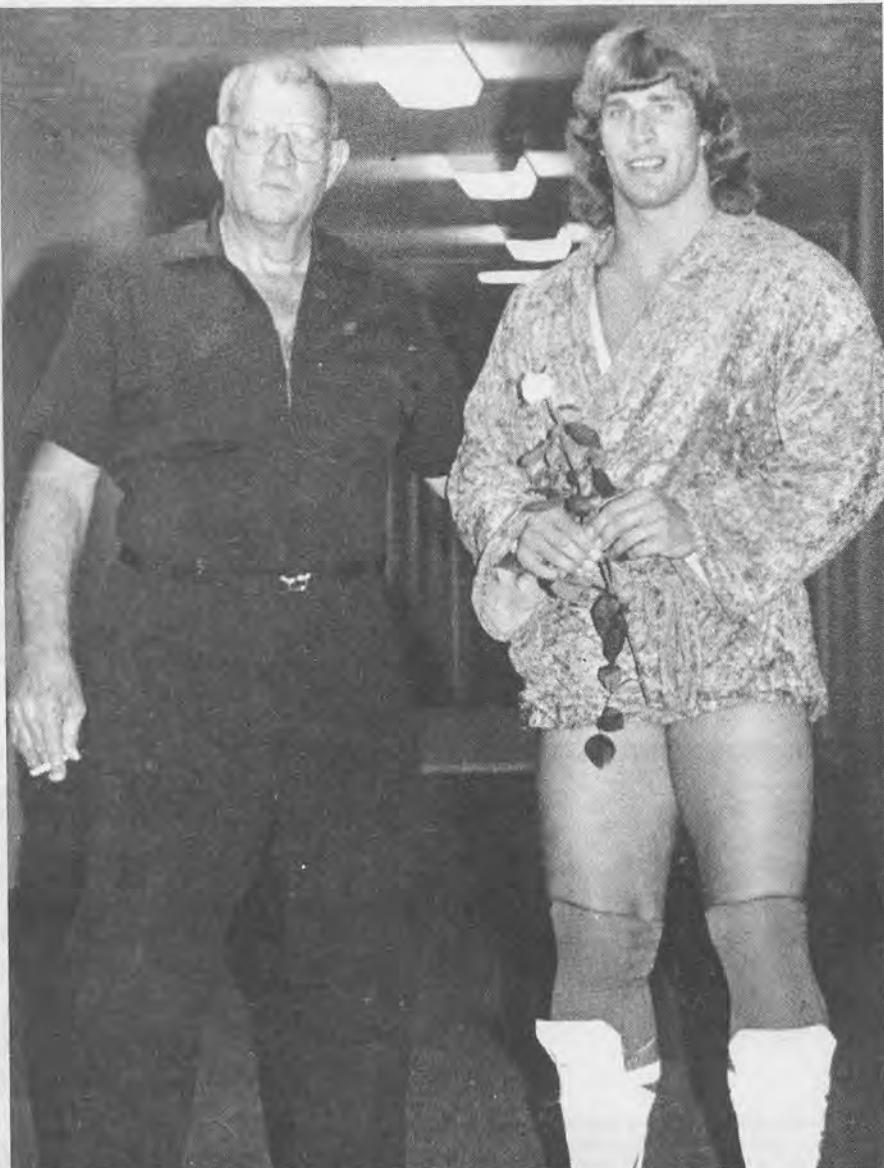
"You guys at PWI think you're so smart," replied Joyce McNulty of Arlington, Texas. "I can't believe you actually ran a story to belittle Hulk Hogan, the man who made this sport what it is today. Well, I guess the joke is on you guys. Just weeks after I bought your magazine, the 'Hulkster' came back to the WWF and WrestleMania, the event he made famous. Hulkmania will live forever!"

MOMENT OF SILENCE

I just recently found out that yet another Von Erich has died. This time it was "Texas Tornado" Kerry Von Erich. He had been scheduled to wrestle near my hometown on Friday, February 26, but he committed suicide one week be-

fore. Kevin Von Erich came to wrestle that night and told all his fans that even though it was hard for him to bury another brother, we should not hang our heads. He said Kerry will live in our hearts forever.

My heart goes out to Kevin and



Kerry Von Erich poses with his father Fritz moments before winning the NWA World title from Ric Flair. This month, readers reminisce about the "Modern-Day Warrior."

his family. May God give them strength to weather this latest personal storm.

May Kerry Von Erich, my hero, rest in peace.

VINCENT CAMARILLO JR.
Mercedes, TX

I am writing this letter on behalf of Kerry Von Erich's tragic suicide. You can't imagine the sorrow I feel for Doris, Fritz, and Kevin Von Erich. But in a way I am mad at Kerry for what he has done. How could he do this to his parents and his remaining brother? Doesn't he care about their feelings? Doris and Fritz had already been put through the deaths of four sons, two by suicide. How could he just take his own life without giving a second thought to his parents and his brother?

I know this must sound cruel, but I am angry as hell at Kerry Von Erich. When I first heard about the incident, I buried my face into my hands and started to cry. I could not imagine the pain Doris and Fritz must have been going through. They have lost five sons!

After crying for two minutes, I started to pound my fist against my pillow in a blind rage. I was so mad at Kerry Von Erich for doing what he had done, I could have spit nails. Why couldn't he have gotten some help? Why couldn't he think of his parents' feelings? What about his two daughters? Are they going to have to go through life without a father? Why didn't Kerry think of them?

GARY W. GRAHAM JR.
Fort Wayne, IN

I am writing this letter to give my respect to one of the true legends of our time. Kerry Von Erich was not only a former NWA World champion, but, to me, the greatest WWF Intercontinental champion in recent history.

I was saddened to hear of his

passing, but it's nice to know he has gone on to a better place. We have lost a great champion, but somewhere, up there, they have gained a great person. Rest in peace, Kerry. We'll miss you.

T. LINGARD
Montrose, CA

I was very sad and upset when I heard about Kerry Von Erich's death. I just couldn't believe that Kerry would commit suicide.

The Von Erich family has been through so much pain over the years. We as fans felt as though the Von Erichs were a part of our family. I will always miss David, Mike, Kerry, and especially Chris Von Erich. I will always remember their glories in the ring and their triumphs and tragedies. I wish Doris and Fritz the best in life. I hope nothing happens to Kevin because he is the only one left to keep up the tradition. My heart goes out to Kathy, Holly, and Lacy.

God bless you guys. The Von Erichs will always be the first family of wrestling and their memories will forever live on.

CLYDIEMAE SMITH
Attica, IN

I was sorry to hear about the death of Kerry Von Erich. I always liked Kerry. I was happy when he won the NWA belt in 1984 from Ric Flair and the Intercontinental belt from "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig in 1990. We will all miss you, Kerry.

MARC PECORARO
Fairlawn, NJ

THE HECK WITH HULK!

He's back! He's hyped! He's as yellow as the shirt he wears! "Cry Baby" Hogan, the prodigal son, has returned. Are we supposed to be impressed?

The question raged for years: Who was the best, Ric Flair or

(Continued on page 56)

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI



The cover of the July 1983 issue featured "Wildfire" Tommy Rich, claiming "The Burning Desire Is Back." The former NWA World champion had fallen out of the NWA rankings after becoming embroiled in a long and violent feud with Buzz Sawyer. Rich said he wanted to resume a normal wrestling career, which meant pursuing NWA World champion Ric Flair.

The centerfold featured "Russian Bear" Ivan Koloff, the unofficial master of chain matches. After a stint in the NWA, where he wrestled Rich on many occasions, Koloff returned to the WWF under the management of Fred Blassie. Koloff, who ended Bruno Sammartino's incredible 7½-year reign as WWF World champion, is still wrestling today.

Elsewhere in the magazine: Ken Patera gave manager Bobby Heenan an ultimatum: "Get Me A Title Shot!" At the time, Heenan was also managing AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel . . . The results of a PWI fan ballot revealed that nearly 95 percent of the 55,000 respondents wanted to see WWF World champion Bob Backlund offer "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka another title shot . . . Editor-in-Chief Peter King interviewed Dusty Rhodes in an attempt to get him to admit that he was, in fact, The Midnight Rider. Rhodes denied that he was the masked wrestler . . . Matt Brock took a look at Abdullah the Butcher, who was appearing in Roaring Fire, a karate movie starring Sonny Chiba.

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter



Big Van Vader regained the WCW World title from Sting on St. Patrick's Day in Dublin, Ireland. The "Stinger" had won the belt six days earlier in London.

BIG VAN VADER left the United States as WCW World champion on March 10 and returned on March 18 with the belt still in tow, but what happened on WCW's tour of the United Kingdom made wrestling history.

For the first time since May 24, 1984, when **Ric Flair** defeated **Kerry Von Erich** in Yokosuka City, Japan, the belt changed hands on foreign soil, and it happened twice.

Sting won the World title for the third time on March 11 at London's Wembley Arena, when he rallied from the brink of defeat to pin Vader. But six days later, in Dublin, Ireland, Vader capitalized on manager **Harley Race's** interference to regain the title and return home as champion.

"The people in the United States won't know anything ever happened," Race said. "Vader needed a little rest from being champion and he got it at just the right time."

On March 11, Sting had been knocked to the brink of unconsciousness by a series of Vader forearms when Vader climbed the ropes and prepared for his power bomb. Sting recovered just in time, grabbed Vader, and powerslammed him off the ropes. A stunned Vader was helpless, and Sting scored the pin.

"I can't wait to take this belt back to my fans in the United States," Sting said. "But I still have some work to do."

Sting's work wasn't nearly done. This grueling tour, which also took WCW to Birmingham, Manchester, Aberdeen, Scotland, and Belfast, thrilled the U.K.'s many fans, but was a major test for all of the grapplers.

It looked as if Sting would pass his

final test on March 17 in Dublin. The Point Depot was packed with screaming, pro-Sting fans, and Sting responded by dominating Vader from the opening bell.

The match—and Sting's short reign—turned when Vader and Sting collided with referee **Nick Patrick**. With Patrick down, Race jumped into the ring, knocked out Sting, and woke up Patrick. At that point, Vader used his power bomb to pin Sting for the title.

Sting's six-day reign is the third shortest on record. **Tommy Rich** held the NWA World championship for only four days, from April 27 to May 1, 1981.

Tragedy struck wrestling again on March 11, when former WWF star **Dino Bravo** died of multiple gunshot wounds. Bravo, 44, was killed in a hail of gunfire as he sat in the living room of his Laval, Quebec, home. Police found empty shell casings from .38-caliber and .22-caliber weapons on the floor near where Bravo was sitting.

At press time, investigators hadn't made any arrests or discovered the reason for the shooting, although police think it might be linked to Canada's illegal cigarette trade. Because of high taxes, a large black market on cigarettes exists in Canada.

Police believe the shooting was the work of at least two men. Bravo had received death threats during the weeks prior to his murder, and **Gino Brito**—Bravo's tag team partner in the 1970s—said he heard rumors Bravo had invested in cigarettes.

Once known as the world's strongest man—and certainly the world's strongest wrestler—Bravo failed on several occasions to win the WWF World title from **Hulk Hogan**. He finished his wrestling career as a rule-breaker, and in his final match lost to **Bret Hart** on April 14, 1992, in Munich, Germany.

Although Bravo and Brito were an outstanding and accomplished tag team, Bravo won his only World title with **Dominic DeNucci**. On March 14, 1978, in Philadelphia, Bravo and

DeNucci defeated **Prof. Toru Tanaka** and **Mr. Fuji**. Their reign lasted less than four months before it ended with a loss to **The Yukon Lumberjacks**.

Bravo leaves behind his wife, **Diane Rivest**, and a six-year-old daughter, **Claudia**. He is the third current or former wrestler to die this year. **Andre the Giant** died on January 27 and **Kerry Von Erich** committed suicide on February 18.

The WCW received a much needed boost in its tag team division when former PNW and USWA tag team champions **The Bruise Brothers** made their entrance at a TV taping. **Ron** and **Don Harris**, fresh off a violent feud with **The Moondogs** in the USWA, wasted no time targeting **The Cole Brothers** as the object of their scorn.

"The Cole Brothers think they can get an easy ride to the top, but the ride is over because The Bruise Brothers are here," Bruise Brother Don said. "We have no interest in

(Continued on page 54)



Dino Bravo is dead. Shown here in a 1975 match, the Canadian Bravo was shot and killed at his home in Quebec. Police are still investigating the murder. Bravo, a former WWF World tag team champion, was 44.

NEVER LET IT be said that Jimmy Hart doesn't know a good opportunity when he sees one.

Hart, perpetrator of some of the most deviant acts ever seen in or around a wrestling ring, is the manager of comeback kids Brutus Beefcake and Hulk Hogan. That is not news. What is news is that people are buying his act.

Said one wrestler who was once managed by Hart: "If lying were a crime, Jimmy'd be Al Capone."

The suddenly pious Hart says he "prayed" he would one day wear the red and yellow of the "Hulkster." If this was indeed Hart's career aspiration, then he chose an odd way of reaching his goal. Was he waiting for Hogan to become a rulebreaker again?

Look at Hart's history and the skepticism is understandable.

WIN LOSE OR DRAW

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

He did manage Hogan once before, in Memphis during Hogan's earliest days in the sport. The "Mouth Of The South," seeing only Hogan's immense size and discounting his lack of ring knowledge, encouraged Hogan to challenge Jerry Lawler, who even

then was "The King."

In a match Hogan would like everyone to forget, Lawler outclassed the youngster and reestablished his Memphis dominance. Hogan never returned—and never stopped telling friends how Hart screwed him.

"It was a real sore spot with Hulk for a long time," noted one colleague. "He said that Hart didn't prepare him well, that he convinced him he didn't have to train so hard because Lawler wouldn't be much of a challenge. He even said he'd never trust that guy again, but things change, I guess."

They changed enough for Hogan to think there was no one better to lead him and Beefcake into battle against Money Inc. Impressed by the way Hart had intervened to save Beefcake from Ted DiBiase and Irwin R.

(Continued on page 58)



Seeing Jimmy Hart as the manager of Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake (above left) is a surprise to those who remember how intensely Hogan and Hart have feuded over the years (above right).



WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

THE ORIGINAL WCW ALBUM!

STING

A black and white advertisement for the WCW Greatest Wrestling Album Ever!. The top half features the WCW logo and the words "WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING". Below it is a large, stylized banner reading "IT'S HERE!" and "GREATEST WRESTLING ALBUM EVER!". A screaming face is visible on the left side of the banner. In the background, there's a graphic of a city skyline with a tall building on the right.

A black and white collage featuring a man in a baseball cap, a man in a suit, and a woman smiling. The background includes abstract shapes like triangles and zig-zags.

OWN 11 OFFICIAL THEME SONGS OF THE WCW STARS!

STING • RON SIMMONS • CACTUS JACK • "RAVISHING" RICK RUDE • FREEBIRDS • JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS
RICKY "THE DRAGON" STEAMBOAT • STEINER BROTHERS • BARRY WINDHAM • JOHNNY B. BADD • DUSTIN RHODES

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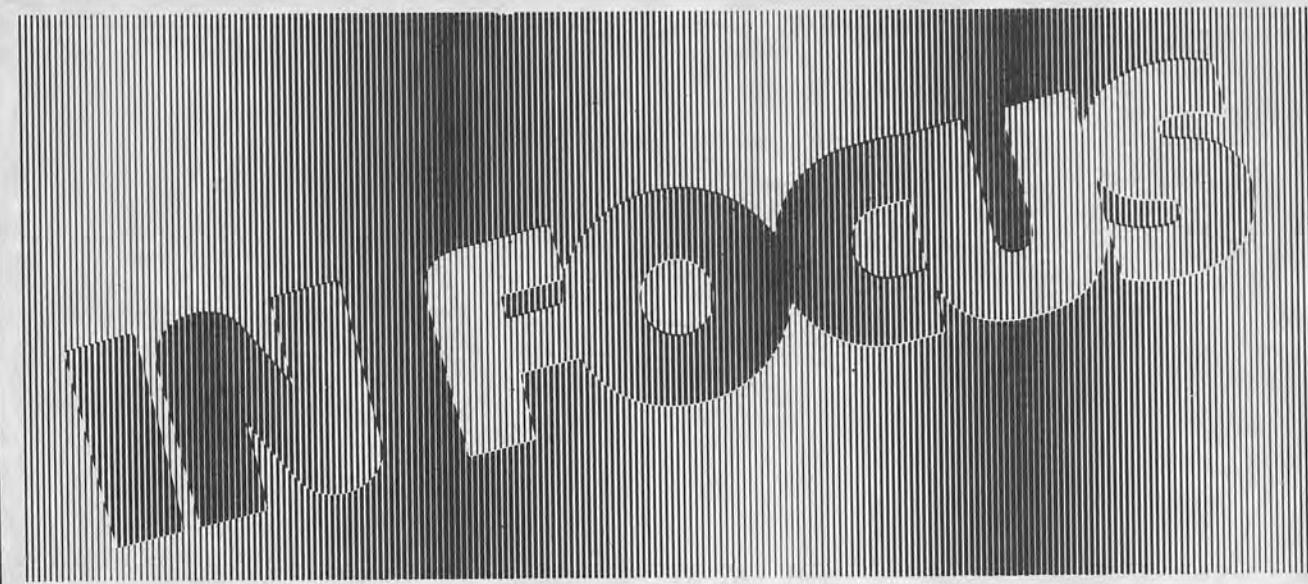
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ROBERTS**

CACTUS JACK

STEINER BROTHERS



WITH CRAIG PETERS

POPULARITY—HERE AND ABROAD

One of our journalistic counterparts on the other side of the globe, *Gong Magazine* in Japan, runs an annual popularity poll. Results of the latest fan voting are in, and they offer an interesting glimpse into the minds of Japanese wrestling fans. Voting was broken down into two categories: native wrestlers and foreign wrestlers. Here are the results:

Native wrestlers: 1—Mitsuhara Misawa; 2—Genichiro Tenryu; 3—The Great Muta; 4—Toshiaki Kawada; 5—Kenta Kobashi; 6—Riki Choshu; 7—Jushin Liger; 8—Jumbo Tsuruta; 9—Nobuhiko Takada; 10—Masa Chono; 11—Tsuyoshi Kikuchi; 12—K. Suke Sasaki; 13—Hiroshi Hase; 14—Shiro Koshinaka; 15—Akira Maeda; 16—Ultimo Dragon; 17—Atsushi Onita; 18—Antonio Inoki; 19—Masakatsu Funaki; 20—Akira Taue.

Foreign wrestlers: 1—Stan Hansen; 2—Scott Norton; 3—Sting; 4—Hawk; 5—Undertaker; 6—Terry Gordy; 7—Hulk Hogan; 8—The Patriot; 9—Volk Han; 10—Johnny Ace; 11—Ultimate Warrior; 12—Steve Williams; 13—



Ultimo Dragon & Jushin Liger

Dirk Leon-Vrij; 14—Gary Albright; 15—Rick Steiner; 16—Big Van Vader; 17—Dory Funk Jr.; 18—Scott Steiner; 19—Bam Bam Bigelow; 20—Dynamite Kid.

Notes: Considering how highly Japanese fans value aerial maneuvers, it's no surprise to see Muta and Liger finish so high among the natives; should 2 Cold Scorpio tour Japan, look for him

to appear on next year's foreigners list ... I'm surprised to see Hogan finish so high, considering he barely wrestled this past year ... Ditto Ultimate Warrior ... Hansen first-place finish among foreigners marks the fourth straight year he's nabbed that spot in this poll; he received nearly four times as many votes as Norton.

THE "HULKSTER'S" EPITAPH FOR A LIFELONG FAN

"I'll wrestle you in heaven."

That's part of the epitaph, hand-written by Hulk Hogan, that appears on the grave marker of Shawn Peter Holman, a resident of Kent, Washington, who died on December 14, 1992, at the age of seven.

While he never actually got a chance to see the matches in person, Kent "loved wrestling and he loved Hulk Hogan," his father, Richard Holman, was quoted as saying in the *Valley Daily News*, "because he knew Hogan was a champion and he loved kids."

Sean, a second-grader with a love of karate as well as wrestling, had been battling leukemia for three years before finally succumbing to complications caused by chicken pox.

After Sean's death, Holman phoned PWI Senior Editor Bill Appter, who helped him get in touch with Hogan. The "Hulkster" phoned Holman, and the two spoke for about 20 minutes. Hogan then sent an autographed photo to Holman, who gave it to an artist who reproduced the photo and Hogan's inscription, which

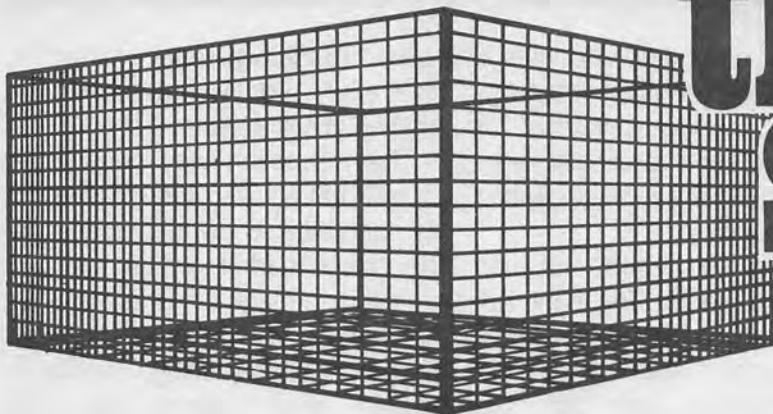
read, "To Shawn Peter Holman, I love you! And I'll wrestle you in heaven. Hulk Hogan. John 3:16"

The inscription was cut into a stencil that allowed the material to be sand-blasted permanently onto the grave marker, which also includes an image of Shawn.

Shawn's fellow students at Park Orchard Elementary School helped raise money for the marker.

"This is something I wish Shawn could have seen," Holman said. "To us, he will see it happening." □





the steel cage

A WORLD WITHOUT WOMEN? A few weeks ago, I received a letter from a very informed fan who was seeking information on a topic that I had almost forgotten about.

"Are you folks going to ever do a magazine devoted to women's wrestling?" the writer asked.

I wrote the fan back: "Sorry to disappoint you, but women's wrestling, at least in the United States, seems to be a dead issue. There just isn't enough call for it to devote even a single story—let alone an entire issue of a magazine—to the subject."

Then I got to thinking.

Hula hoops . . . eight-track tapes and LP records . . . black-and-white TV sets . . . drive-in theaters . . . Beta video recorders . . . *women's wrestling*?

It's bad news, but I've never seen the distaff side of the sport in worse shape than it's in right now. The WWF and WCW have dropped women's matches from their cards entirely. The USWA continues to feature women, but while watching Leslie Belanger and Lauren Davenport tear each other's togs off might be fun, it's not *wrestling*. And the most promising women's federation, the LPWA, appears to be a thing of the past; they've been dormant for almost a year.

There's still Ladies Major League Wrestling, which promotes cards, but very infrequently. And there's still Japanese women's wrestling, which is hard to come by, and you have to have a friend who trades videos if you ever want to see it.

This is really a shame, because right before the women's wrestling collapse started about 18 months ago, there were more talented female athletes plying their trades than at any time I could remember. The doughy, tough-acting lady wrestlers of the past had been phased out. The order of the day was great athleticism, and we were seeing the best female matches ever.

It wasn't that long ago that women's wrestling reached its high-water mark. It was on February 23, 1992, that the LPWA presented its first pay-per-view card, Super



Terri Power won the LPWA championship from Lady X in February 1992, but she has not defended it in the U.S. for a long time. Bob Smith laments the absence of quality women's grappling.

Ladies Showdown, at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minnesota. There were many who scoffed that the LPWA was too new an organization to even attempt such a card, but it turned out to be more exciting than many of the WCW and WWF pay-per-view events during that year!

And what a fine card it was. Terri Power, the former bodybuilder, convincingly defeated tough Lady X for the LPWA title. (Power still holds that belt, but hasn't defended it in the U.S. in months.) Japan's Harley Saito was incredible, defeating powerful Denise Storm to win the first LPWA Japan title. And some of the other athletes on the card—including Eagle Sawai, Malia Hosaka, and the team of Bambi and Malia Hosaka—



Debbie Malenko (above) is one of the most talented wrestlers—male or female—in the world, but American fans rarely get the chance to see her. Reggie Bennett (top right) says she would rather compete in Japan, where women wrestlers are highly respected.

proved they were as exciting and capable as their male counterparts.

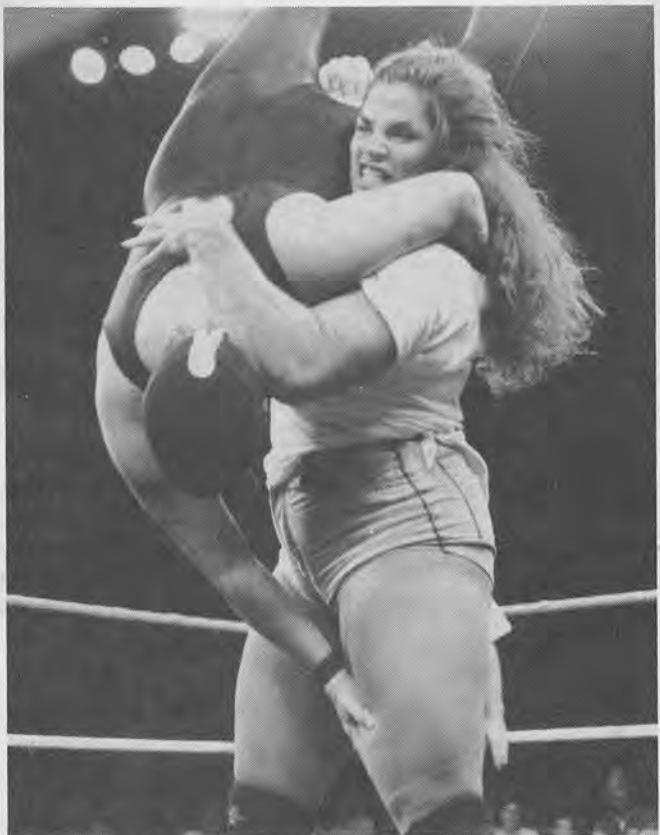
And then they were gone. What happened?

"I loved the LPWA," said Reggie Bennett, another young star who made her mark there. "But if that organization or another one doesn't present cards, we can't compete, obviously. So these days, I'd rather compete in Japan, where our part of the sport is treated with respect and dignity."

That's the theory of many female wrestlers these days. I recently watched a tape of young Debbie Malenko, the daughter of former star Boris Malenko, in action in Japan. This natural athlete was remarkable, utilizing textbook scientific skill and incredible aerial maneuvers to defend her Japanese women's title. Want to see her? It's likely you never will.

"I hate to say this, but I think that women's wrestling in America is a dead issue," said the personable Malenko, who competed in Florida two years ago. "I take my craft very seriously. I am a dedicated athlete who has spent years trying to learn this sport. If I were to return to the U.S., I'd be stuck in a mid-card match against a poorly trained opponent in a minor federation. In Japan, I'm in main events. I don't have to worry about when my next match will be or who my opponent will be. I hate to say it, but I have no plans to return to the U.S., and I may never have to."

How's that for a slap in the face? As good as the



LPWA was—and its weekly TV show hosted by Joe Pedicino and Jim Cornette was one of the three best programs on the airwaves at the time—nobody seemed to watch it. When women's matches were held at many arenas, they were greeted with chants of "boring" and sexist catcalls. Are U.S. wrestling fans getting what they deserve?

"This sport needs an attitude change, and quick," said talented Heidi Lee Morgan, another top young female athlete. "Women wrestlers have progressed past the hair-pullers and tights-grabbers of the past. I talked to Fabulous Moolah recently, and she thinks that today's stars are the most athletically gifted she's ever seen. Unfortunately, the only place she gets to see them are at her own training camp."

One top female star I talked to recently told me she was thinking of quitting entirely.

"I'm going back to college to get my degree in business," the wrestler told me, asking that I not divulge her name. "If I can't get enough work in wrestling, I might as well become a retail manager or something."

Is this sad or what? We, as fans, have to get to work. I think true fans want to see women's wrestling. I know I do. Let's do whatever we have to do—letter-writing, phone calls to the federations, or petitions—to get women's wrestling back in *all* federations.

Promoters: We want to see Power, Morgan, Bennett, Magnificent Mimi, Bambi, Misty Blue Simmes, Malenko, Madusa Miceli, Judy Martin, Lelani Kai, and all of the great Japanese stars.

But will we ever again get the opportunity? □

BY EDDIE ELLNER

off the Top Rope

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag,
send your letters to:

TOP ROPE, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571

[Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily represent the editorial views of this magazine.]

THE BIG NEWS, of course, is that Missy Hyatt abandoned *The Barbarian* just days after signing him. My understanding is that the 300-pounder got a little uncomfortable when Missy called him "Barbie Doll" anyway. Oh, well.

Dear Mr. Ellner,

Do you think Ric Flair stands a legitimate chance to capture another WCW championship despite the fact



Despite increased competition in WCW, Ric Flair will find a way to win his 10th world title.

that talent levels have increased tenfold in the federation since he left?

K.C. DARKHARTE
Biloxi, MS

Dear Mr. Darkharte,

Though the Steiners' defection greatly depressed the overall talent pool, WCW does stand greatly improved from the time Flair left. Especially at the top, where Big Van Vader is firmly entrenched and a rejuvenated Paul Orndorff is wrestling better than ever. But mysterious things happen when Flair is concerned. I look for unexpected lightning bolts, fatal shark attacks, and dangerous banana peels to somehow undermine the competition and, to answer your question, result in a 10th world title for Ric Flair.

Dear Mr. Ellner,

What happened to Sid Justice? I haven't heard anything from him in nearly a year.

CORY NEWMAN
Altoona, PA

Dear Cory,

I didn't bother asking other editors, who I'm sure would say something like "Justice is training hard in Canada, planning his comeback," or "he is rehabilitating a chronic wrist injury." The truth is the bark of Sid Justice/Vicious greatly exceeded the bite. I share the guilt in promoting the impostor as the second coming of King

Kong, when in reality he more closely resembled Bill Apter's breath: dangerous but non-toxic.

Dear Eddie,

It's been a lifelong dream of my best friend, Amy Duncan, to meet Bret Hart, Shawn Michaels, and Brutus Beefcake. Her birthday is March 17



Sid Justice's piledriver is impressive, but his tenacity and desire are questionable. He never should have been touted as a Superman.

and she is going to have a party sometime later in the month. I was wondering if any of those wrestlers might show up and surprise her. Please respond as quickly as possible and I'll give you further details.

SANDY FECHER
Canton, OH
(Continued on page 66)

60 WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. AIRPLANE SPIN
2. ARMBAR
3. ARMDRAG
4. ARMLOCK
5. ARM STRETCH
6. ARM WHIP
7. ASIAN SPIKE
8. BEAR HUG
9. BITING
10. BODY SLAM
11. BODY TACKLE
12. CHICKEN WING
13. CHOKE
14. CLAW
15. CLOTHESLINE
16. CROSS BODY BLOCK
17. DOUBLE-AXE HANDLE
18. DROP KICK
19. EAGLE SPLIT
20. ELBOW SMASH
21. EYE GOUGE
22. FACE RAKE
23. FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM
24. FLYING BODY PRESS
25. FLYING CLOTHESLINE
26. FLYING DROP KICK
27. FLYING ELBOW DROP
28. FLYING HEAD BUTT
29. FLYING MARE
30. FOREARM SMASH
31. FOREIGN OBJECT
32. FULL NELSON
33. GIANT SWING
34. GRAPEVINE
35. HAIR PULLING
36. HAMMERLOCK
37. HEAD LOCK
38. HEAD STOMP
39. HEART PUNCH
40. HIP ROLL
41. IRISH WHIP
42. KNEE DROP
43. LEGLOCK
44. MANAGER INTERFERER
45. MONKEY FLIP
46. OVERHEAD TOSS
47. POLE RAM
48. REVERSE CHINLOCK
49. ROLLING SCISSORS
50. ROPE BURN
51. SAVATTE KICK
52. SCISSORS GRIP
53. SHOULDER BREAKER
54. SLINGSHOT
55. SNAP MARE
56. STEP-OVER TOE HOLD
57. SUPLEX
58. SURBOARD
59. TURNBUCKLE SMASH
60. WRISTLOCK

30 SET-UP HOLDS

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH
62. ATOMIC DROP
63. AVALANCHE
64. BACKBREAKER
65. BACKROLL PRESS
66. BELLY TO BELLY
67. BIG SPLASH
68. BOSTON CRAB
69. BRAIN BUSTER
70. BULLDOG
71. CAMEL CLUTCH
72. COBRA CLUTCH
73. CRADLE
74. CRUCIFIX
75. D.D.T.
76. FIGURE FOUR
77. FLYING LEG DROP
78. GOURD BUSTER
79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK
80. NECKBREAKER
81. PILEDRIVER
82. POWER BOMB
83. POWER SLAM
84. RUSSIAN SICKLE
85. SLEEPER
86. SLINGSHOT SUPLEX
87. SMALL PACKAGE
88. SPINE BUSTER
89. SUNSET FLIP
90. SUPERPLEX

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day of
real
wrestling
action!
Sign up
today!**

Wear-Down Holds: choose 10 from the list of 60 shown at left. List them in order. Use each only once.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____

Set-Up Holds: choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at left. List them in order. Use each only once.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

Finishing Hold: create "custom" final maneuver or choose a hold from either list shown at left. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces:

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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CITY STATE ZIP

I wish to join NEW LEAGUE ACTIVE LEAGUE NO PREFERENCE

WRESTLER'S NAME (NO ACTUAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES, PLEASE)

WRESTLER'S HEIGHT WRESTLER'S WEIGHT

MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU)

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PWI0693

FINISHING HOLD

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

PWI's TOP 10



Paul Orndorff

WCW

World Champion:

BIG VAN VADER

(C) 404, Denver, CO

1—DUSTIN RHODES

(1) 254, Austin, TX

2—STING

(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA

3—PAUL ORNDORFF

(4) 253, Brandon, FL

4—BARRY WINDHAM

(5) 263, Sweetwater, TX

5—DAVEY BOY SMITH

(-) 245, Leeds, England

6—RICK RUDE

(-) 246, Robbinsdale, MN

7—VAN HAMMER

(-) 290, New York, NY

8—2 COLD SCORPIO

(8) 222, Denver, CO

9—MAXX PAYNE

(-) 350, Iowa City, IA

10—CACTUS JACK

(3) 304, Truth or Cons., NM

WWF

World Champion:

BRET HART

(C) 235, Calgary, Alberta

1—SHAWN MICHAELS

(1) 220, San Antonio, TX

2—THE UNDERTAKER

(4) 320, parts unknown

3—YOKOZUNA

(2) 505, Samoa

4—TATANKA

(3) 260, Miami, FL

5—GIANT GONZALES

(-) 435, Argentina

6—DOINK

(9) 236, parts unknown

7—BAM BAM BIGELOW

(-) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

8—LEX LUGER

(-) 290, Chicago, IL

9—BOB BACKLUND

(5) 242, Princeton, MN

10—SKINNER

(10) 236, Tampa, FL

GLOBAL

North American Champion:

STEVIE RAY

(-) 265, Dallas, TX

1—CALVIN KNAPP

(-) 231, Dallas, TX

2—BLACK BART

(5) 261, Pampa, TX

3—CHRIS ADAMS

(3) 228, Stratford, UK

4—JOHN TATUM

(2) 236, Hollywood, CA

5—ROD PRICE

(C) 265, Los Angeles, CA

6—KILLER BROOKS

(10) 284, Waxahachie, TX

7—MIKE DAVIS

(1) 243, Tampa, FL

8—TERRY SIMMS

(-) 220, San Francisco, CA

9—CHAZ TAYLOR

(-) 225, Dallas, TX

10—STEVEN DANE

(-) 232, Dallas, TX

USWA

USWA Champion:

JERRY LAWLER

(C) 234, Memphis, TN

1—JEFF JARRETT

(2) 220, Hendersonville, TN

2—DAN DAVIS

(7) 238, Nashville, TN

3—EDDIE GILBERT

(-) 236, Lexington, TN

4—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

(1) 230, Memphis, TN

5—MASTER OF TERROR I

(3) 235, parts unknown

6—MISS TEXAS

(-) 130, Atlanta, GA

7—T.D. STEEL

(-) 250, parts unknown

8—J.C. ICE

(-) 230, Memphis, TN

9—ROCK 'N' ROLL PHANTOM

(6) 245, parts unknown

10—RANDY SAVAGE

(-) 245, Sarasota, FL

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

1	STING	260, Venice Beach, CA
		Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
2	BRET HART	235, Calgary, Alberta
		Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
3	THE UNDERTAKER	320, Dallas, TX
		Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular
4	CURT HENNIG	235, Minneapolis, MN
		Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
5	CRUSH	310, Honolulu, HI
		Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular
6	DUSTIN RHODES	254, Austin, TX
		Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
7	HULK HOGAN	300, Venice, CA
		Last issue: unrated
8	DAVEY BOY SMITH	245, Leeds, England
		Last issue: unrated
9	2 COLD SCORPIO	222, Denver, CO
		Last issue: unrated
10	BOB BACKLUND	242, Princeton, MN
		Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1	BIG VAN VADER	404, Denver, CO
		Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
2	YOKOZUNA	505, Samoa
		Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
3	BARRY WINDHAM	263, Sweetwater, TX
		Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
4	DOINK	236, parts unknown
		Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
5	PAUL ORNDORFF	253, Brandon, FL
		Last issue: unrated
6	TONY ANTHONY	235, Bucksport, TN
		Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated
7	BRIAN CHRISTOPHER	220, Memphis, TN
		Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated
8	RICK RUDE	246, Robbinsdale, MN
		Last issue: unrated
9	KEVIN SULLIVAN	252, Boston, MA
		Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated
10	MAXX PAYNE	350, Iowa City, IA
		Last issue: unrated

For period ended March 17, 1993

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1 — BRET HART	74 points
2 — RICK RUDE	53 points
3 — RANDY SAVAGE	41 points
4 — RON SIMMONS	39 points
5 — BIG VAN VADER	38 points

TAG TEAMS

1 — MONEY INC.	70 points
2 — RICK & SCOTT STEINER	54 points
3 — NATURAL DISASTERS	50 points
4 — GORDY & WILLIAMS	40 points
5 — STEAMBOAT & DOUGLAS	37 points

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion:

TONY ANTHONY

(C) 235, Bucksport, TN

- 1**—**BOBBY EATON**
(5) 245, Huntsville, AL
- 2**—**TRACEY SMOTHERS**
(2) 227, Atlanta, GA
- 3**—**TIM HORNER**
(1) 235, Morristown, TN
- 4**—**BRIAN LEE**
(3) 251, Los Angeles, CA
- 5**—**NIGHTSTALKER**
(4) 306, parts unknown
- 6**—**KILLER KYLE**
(7) 303, Atlanta, GA
- 7**—**ARN ANDERSON**
(-) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 8**—**MONGOLIAN STOMPER**
(-) 260, Mongolia
- 9**—**JIMMY GOLDEN**
(-) 255, Montgomery, AL
- 10**—**RENO RIGGINS**
(9) 228, Las Vegas, NV

IWCCW

IWCCW Champion:

TITLE VACANT

To be determined in tourney

- 1**—**JOE SAVOLDI**
(1) 220, Parsippany, NJ
- 2**—**JIMMY DEO**
(2) 301, Blandon, PA
- 3**—**TASMANIAC**
(3) 245, Tasmania
- 4**—**L.A. GORE**
(4) 288, Los Angeles, CA
- 5**—**TOMMY DREAMER**
(5) 245, Yonkers, NY
- 6**—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**
(6) 280, Moscow, Russia
- 7**—**THE NINJA**
(7) 277, Japan
- 8**—**EL DIABLO**
(8) 246, Tocula, Mexico
- 9**—**JOHNNY WILDSIDE**
(9) 285, parts unknown
- 10**—**COUSIN LUKE**
(10) 336, Mud Lick, KY

ECW: ECW champion—The Sandman; 1—Jimmy Snuka; 2—Don Muraco; 3—Terry Funk; 4—Salvatore Bellomo; 5—Rockin' Rebel; 6—Johnny Hot Body; 7—Glenn Osbourne; 8—Ivan Koloff; 9—J.T. Smith; 10—Tommy Cairo.

ICWA: ICWA champion—Cuban Assassin; 1—Mr. Nice; 2—Brett Sawyer; 3—Mr. Mickey Jay; 4—Jim Backlund; 5—The Surgeon General; 6—Mark Starr; 7—Big Bill Tyree; 8—Mad Bill Pain; 9—The Stormtrooper; 10—Mr. Electricity.

IWF: IWF champion—title vacant; 1—Hercules Hernandez; 2—The Possessor; 3—Chubby M.C.; 4—Greg Valentine; 5—Cliff Anderson; 6—Rob Van Dam; 7—Chris Proctor; 8—Kendall Windham; 9—Nuclear Assassin; 10—Billy Brooks.

PWA: PWA champion—The Hater; 1—Charlie Norris; 2—Brad Rheingans; 3—Lightning Kid; 4—The Punisher; 5—Randy Gusto; 6—Tommy Ferrara; 7—Steve Berg; 8—Derrick Dukes; 9—Larry Cameron; 10—Billy Blaze.

PWF: PWF champion—Italian Stallion; 1—George South; 2—Flaming Youth; 3—Cruel Connection II; 4—Austin Steele; 5—Scotty McKeever; 6—Russian Assassin; 7—Killozer; 8—Star Ryder; 9—Gentleman James; 10—Mad Dog.

USA: USA TV champion—Col. DeBeers; 1—Jimmy Snuka; 2—Bart Sawyer; 3—Jesse Barr; 4—Hercules; 5—Max Steele; 6—The Polynesian Prince; 7—John Rambo; 8—Al Madril; 9—Buddy Wayne; 10—C.W. Bergstrom.

WIN: WIN champion—A.C. Golden; 1—A.J. Fritzoid; 2—Chris Candido; 3—Agent Orange; 4—Pain; 5—The Spider; 6—Nick Tarentino; 7—Adrian Hall; 8—Morgus the Maniac; 9—Lightning Kid; 10—Ricky Blues.

WWC: WWC Universal champion—Carlos Colon; 1—Invader I; 2—La Ley; 3—Mr. Hughes; 4—The Equalizer; 5—Rex King; 6—Mohammad Hussein; 7—Ray Gonzalez; 8—El Vigilante; 9—Victor Jovica; 10—Solid Gold 14 Karat.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Managing a new top 10. When Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake announced that they had hired Jimmy Hart as their new manager, it sent shock waves through the sport. Since that earth-shattering proclamation took place, we figured it was a good time as any to rate the top 10 managers in wrestling for the period ending March 12:

TOP 10 MANAGERS

1—**HARLEY RACE**

WCW World champion Big Van Vader

2—**MR. FUJI**

Yokozuna

3—**JIMMY HART**

Hulk Hogan, Brutus Beefcake

4—**JIM CORNETTE**

SMW tag champions The Heavenly Bodies

5—**BERT PRENTICE**

Brian Christopher, Mike Samples

6—**HARVEY WIPPLEMAN**

Giant Gonzales

7—**RICHARD LEE**

USWA tag team champions The Moondogs

8—**RON WRIGHT**

SMW champion "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony

9—**PAUL BEARER**

The Undertaker

10—**HUNTER Q. ROBBINS III**

ECW/WWA tag champions The Super Destroyers

Bubbling under: Slick (Kamala), Nasty Ronnie (Mongolian Stomper), Gaston B. Means (The Bad Breed), Afa (The Headshrinkers).

Analysis: Race now ranks as the top manager in the sport, as well as a manager of champions: He's led both Vader and Lex Luger to the WCW World title ... Fuji, an also-ran ring general in years past, has rebounded in a big way with Yokozuna, the sport's top



Harvey Wippleman



Paul Bearer

new star ... We can't believe that Hart manages Hogan and Beefcake, either. Only time will tell if his intentions are truly honorable ... Cornette remains a focal point for the sport, recently leading Tom Prichard, Stan Lane, and Bobby Eaton into WCW. However, the "Louisville Slugger" has been having a hard time keeping his trio harmonious ... The rotund Prentice is clearly the most powerful manager in the USWA, with his prime jewel being Christopher, a true young superstar ... Gonzales is suddenly a feared man, and he should thank the wily

Wippleman for turning his fortunes around ... Lee's new Moondogs of Spot and Splash are constantly in the hunt for the USWA tag team title, but Ron and Don Harris have proven to be formidable opposition ... Wright, the wheelchair-bound (by choice!) leader of Anthony, has kept his man on top of Smoky Mountain since August of 1992 ... Robbins has pulled off a rare coup: He's led his massive tag team, The Super Destroyers, to titles in two different federations.

Write! Right? Care to comment on our manager ratings or other aspects of our rankings? Send your mail to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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—J.S., Los Angeles

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Scouting Report.

A NO-HOLDS-BARRED LOOK AT WRESTLING'S TOP STARS

Every other month, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Scouting Reports* will examine the relative strengths and weaknesses of wrestling's top stars. There will be no punches pulled as the sport's athletes undergo the harshest scrutiny anywhere in the wrestling world



GIANT GONZALES

HOMETOWN: Argentina
HEIGHT: 7'7"
WEIGHT: 435
YEARS AS PRO: 3
RATING: No. 5 in WWF

STRENGTHS:

- Intimidation. Massive appearance and monstrous demeanor terrifies opponents.
- Athleticism. Former hoops star has the tools, but they have to be developed.
- Killer instinct. Attitude change has been instilled by Harvey Wippleman.

WEAKNESSES:

- Rigid. Clumsiness and lack of agility make him an easy target.
- Limited repertoire. Relies merely on the clawhold and chokehold.
- Past failures. Must resolve the stigma of his disappointing stint in WCW.

OTHER COMMENTS: The tallest man in wrestling history . . . Was a fan favorite in WCW, but those days seem long ago . . . Wrestled Ric Flair for the WCW World title in 1991 . . . Has made a habit of interfering in battle royals and emptying the ring.

OUTLOOK FOR '93: Gonzales' success may depend upon the outcome of his match against The Undertaker at WrestleMania. If he won, he could go on to become a world champion. If he lost, he could become just another big man who didn't have the tools to succeed.



HULK HOGAN

HOMETOWN: Venice Beach, CA
HEIGHT: 6'8"
WEIGHT: 285
YEARS AS PRO: 14
RATING: unrated

STRENGTHS:

- Rejuvenated. Time away from the ring has helped him.
- Quicker. Has lost extra bulk and appears more streamlined.
- Reputation. Still maintains an intimidating aura.

WEAKNESSES:

- Distracted. Home life and Hollywood have taken away from ability to concentrate.
- Reliving old glory. His 1984 mind will tell his 1993 body to do things it may not be able to.
- Predictable arsenal. Still has not added anything new to repertoire.

OTHER COMMENTS: Four-time WWF World champion may have his first tag team title by the time you read this . . . Returned after a 10-month hiatus to help Brutus Beefcake avenge a horrible beating . . . Still no word on whether he is back for good.

OUTLOOK FOR '93: Even after a long break, Hogan is still among the federation's finest. It will be interesting to see if the "Hulkster" is able to thrive in the WWF, where the emphasis now seems to be on smaller, technically skilled wrestlers. It's hard to envision Hogan not going after his fifth world title.



CACTUS JACK

HOMETOWN:

Truth or Consequences, NM

HEIGHT: 6'4"

WEIGHT: 277

YEARS AS PRO: 10

RATING: No. 10 in WCW

STRENGTHS:

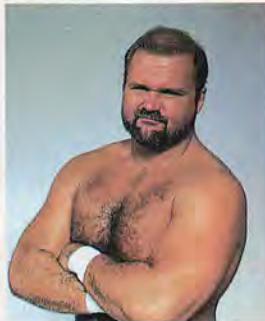
- Crazy. Absolute fearlessness intimidates foes.
- Crazy. Willing to take two (or three or four) blows to get in one.
- Crazy. Lack of attention to diet has provided ample padding for tough falls.

WEAKNESSES:

- Crazy. Reckless style has brought on countless injuries.
- Crazy. Hitting foes with shovels and garbage cans is costing him victories.
- Crazy. Fan favorites' lack of trust in him destroys allegiances.

OTHER COMMENTS: The unofficial master of falls-count-anywhere matches, although he did lose such a match to Sting at Beach Blast '92 . . . Turned his back on rulebreaking at Clash of the Champions XXI, interfering on behalf of Sting and Dustin Rhodes in the Thundercage match.

OUTLOOK FOR '93: Most thought Jack had come to his senses when he became a fan favorite, but it is obvious he is just as nuts as ever. It would be nice to see him pursue a title instead of meaningless feuds that can only serve to shorten his fascinating career.



ARN ANDERSON

HOMETOWN:

Minneapolis, MN

HEIGHT: 6'

WEIGHT: 249

YEARS AS PRO: 11

RATING: No. 7 in SMW

STRENGTHS:

- Focused. Sets a goal of destruction and achieves it.
- Versatile. Has always excelled in both singles and tag teams.
- A pro's pro. Conducts himself professionally both in and out of the ring.

WEAKNESSES:

- Poor eyesight. Can't wear his glasses during battle.
- Loyal to a fault. Subservience to Ric Flair holding him back.
- Knee injury. Questions remain about his ability to bounce back.

OTHER COMMENTS: Has had a rough stretch recently, watching both his partnership and friendship with Bobby Eaton dissolve . . . Resurfaced in Smoky Mountain, siding with The Rock 'n' Roll Express and feuding with Eaton . . . In WCW, has talked of the reformation of The Four Horsemen.

OUTLOOK FOR '93: Anderson is at a crossroads. He can pursue Eaton in Smoky Mountain or join Flair in WCW. Bet on the latter. Given his experience with the Horsemen and The Dangerous Alliance, no one in the history of the federation has been more comfortable within a rule-breaking stable.



EDDIE GILBERT

HOMETOWN:

Lexington, TN

HEIGHT: 5'10"

WEIGHT: 222

YEARS AS PRO: 16

RATING: No. 3 in USWA



STRENGTHS:

- Master of deception. Breaks the rules and gets away with it better than anyone.
- "Hot shot." Slingshot guillotine is a fantastic finisher.
- Student of the game. Watches tapes, scouts opponents, and idolizes old-timers.

WEAKNESSES:

- Social misfit. Gets along with no one, including his brother, Doug.
- Obsession with Jerry Lawler. Wants to be "The King," but can't.
- Vulnerable neck. Chronic injury causes him pain and provides easy target for foes.

OTHER COMMENTS: Has jumped around over the past year, wrestling in the GWF, the USWA, and Germany . . . Engaged in a bloody battle with Terry Funk in Wayne, New Jersey, at the end of last year . . . Still an expert fireball thrower, as his brother recently discovered.

OUTLOOK FOR '93: Although he has the skills and experience, don't expect Gilbert to make the jump to the WWF or WCW. He is much happier being a big fish in a smaller pond. Look for Gilbert to win the USWA heavyweight title, touching off a violent feud with nemesis Lawler.



RAZOR RAMON

HOMETOWN:

Minneapolis, MN

HEIGHT: 6'8"

WEIGHT: 291

YEARS AS PRO: 9

RATING: unrated

STRENGTHS:

- "Razor's Edge." This power bomb variation is an awesome finisher.
- Unflappable. Oozes confidence and plays prematch mind game as well as anyone in the sport.
- Street fighter. Experience in WWC toughened him up.

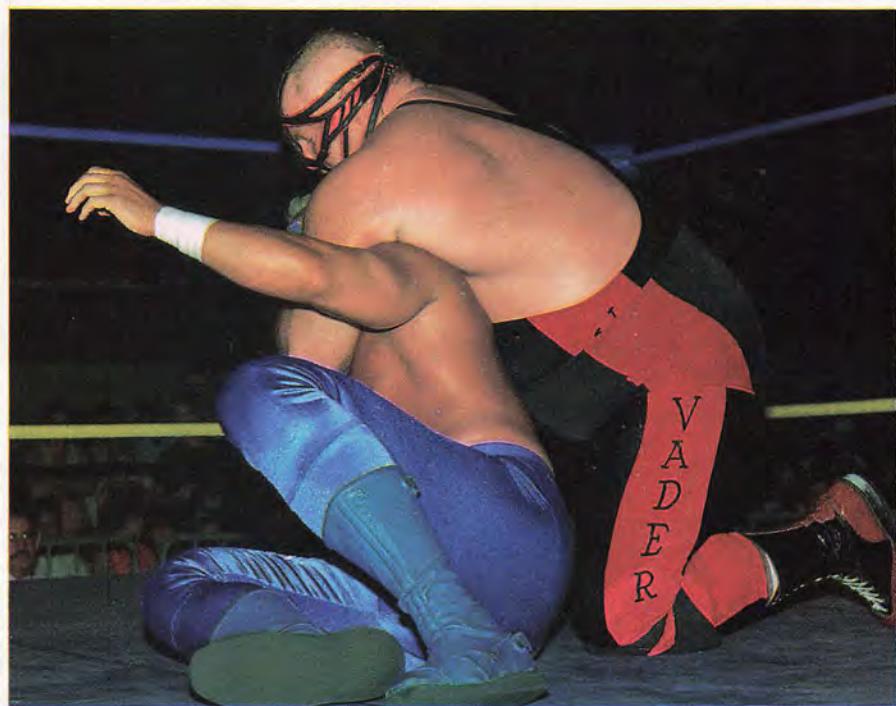
WEAKNESSES:

- Underachiever. Has done very little with plenty of skills.
- Overaggressive. Often charges into traps against defense-minded foes.
- Knee injury. He never thought he could be hurt, and now is a bit tentative.

OTHER COMMENTS: Before becoming Ramon, competed as The Diamond Studd in WCW and Scott Hall in the AWA . . . Held the AWA tag team title with Curt Hennig in 1986. He and Hennig are now mortal enemies . . . Has victories over Bret Hart and Randy Savage to his credit.

OUTLOOK FOR '93: After coming into the WWF like gangbusters last summer, Ramon's momentum has slowed. He needs something to create the spark that could lead him to the World title. A victory over a top-notch opponent like Hennig or Bob Backlund could be the tonic.

POUCHED RUMBLE TESTS S



Convincing victories over Sting have convinced a majority of fans that Big Van Vader is a WCW World champion capable of dominating anyone he encounters.

OVER THE PAST year, WCW fans have seen the reigns of two of their favorite World champions ended by one man. That man is Big Van Vader, and from Tokyo to Peachtree Street, he's one of the most feared bad men in the sport.

The 404-pound bruiser from Denver, Colorado, won his first WCW World title last July 12, when he manhandled Sting. Months earlier, Vader had broken Sting's ribs in a brutal assault.

Three weeks later in Baltimore, Ron Simmons upset Vader for the title. Vader lost the belt under controversial conditions. He was scheduled to wrestle Sting, who was injured and unable to wrestle.

Manager Harley Race, a seven-time former NWA World champion, seemed to be the only person on Vader's side in the months ahead. Simmons' reign was celebrated while Vader tried in vain to regain the title. He finally did it on December 30, pinning Simmons following a shoulderbreaker.

At SuperBrawl III on February 21, Vader defeated Sting in the "White Castle Of Fear" strap match. The title wasn't on the line, but pride was. Despite suffering a concussion, Vader defeated his most bitter rival.

Vader has never been one to let a little scratch or bruise get in his way. He is a fearless man who seemingly never feels pain. The WCW hasn't had a dominant World champion for a long time. Vader might be the man.

In mid-March, PWI's Dave Rosenbaum, Eddie Ellner, and Craig Peters traveled to Atlanta for a long-sought after interview with Vader. Race had been blocking all interview requests and finally relented when Peters agreed to place Ellner on the interview team. Race was present during the interview.

BIG VAN VADER

HARLEY RACE: Before you guys start, I'm going to set some ground rules.

CRAIG PETERS: You're not going to set anything, Race. The terms of this interview were decided before we ever came down here, and if you had anything else to say, you should've said it then. We made an agreement. Are you a gentleman, Race?

RACE: Don't mess with me, Peters. Fine, have it your way, but I don't want you and Rosenbaum hogging up the interview. If Ellner doesn't ask questions, we're going to get up and leave.

DAVE ROSENBAUM: Nobody's ever found a way to keep Ellner from asking questions and I don't think anyone ever will. How about it, Eddie? Feel like asking the first question?

EDDIE ELLNER: Sure, I'll shoot first. Vader, what are the cultural implications of your two title reigns? You were very successful in Japan and now you've carried over your success to the United States. What does that mean?

PETERS: What a question!

RACE: Let him answer it.

ELLNER: Well?

BIG VAN VADER: It means that no matter where I go, I'm still the most powerful and dominant man in the game. It doesn't matter where you take it, true greatness always travels. I've never been in a federation or a country where I couldn't just pick and choose who I wanted to beat, and it's not any different here. Simmons held the belt for so long because he ducked me.

PETERS: What?

RACE: Next question.

PETERS: I'm going to ignore that last statement because our readers know how ridiculous it is. Vader, it sometimes seems to me that you're more interested in hurting people than winning titles.

VADER: I'm interested in both and I do both very well. This sport isn't about finesse. You reporters like to talk about scientific wrestlers, but you can use all the moves you want and it'll get you nowhere unless you have the force to back them up. That's the question: Are you man enough to go against Big Van Vader, or are you gonna keep hunting for excuses?

ROSENBAUM: Sure, but what does that mean? A wrestler can't be worried all the time about whether you're going to break his ribs. It says right in the rulebook that the object of wrestling is to pin your opponent and attempts to injure will not be tolerated.

VADER: Sure, that's what it says, but is that what it means? I was put on this planet to shake things up. The wrestling promoters, they're all two-faced. On one hand they're mad because of what I do to the other wrestlers, but with the other

(Continued on page 52)

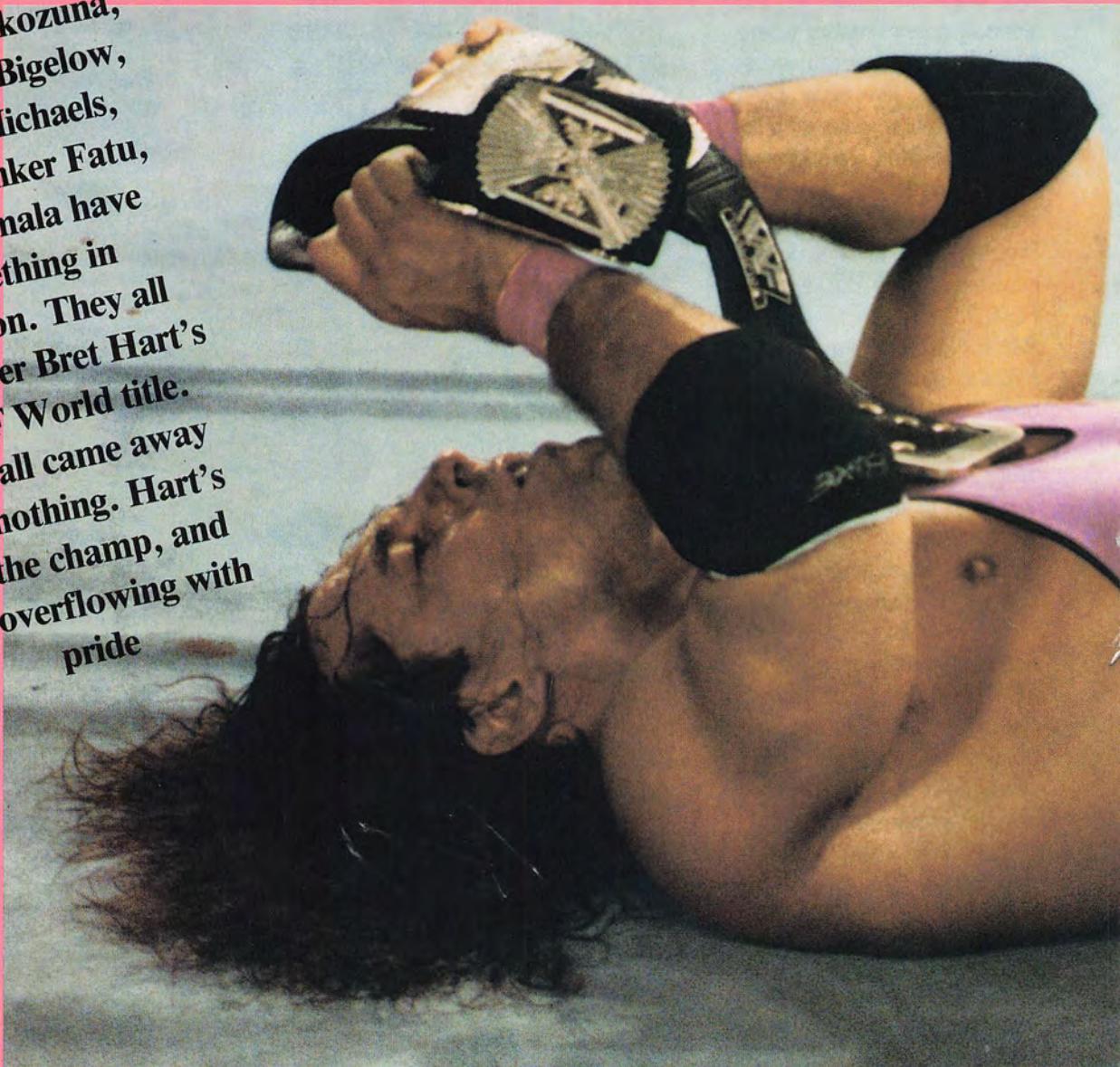
In my mind,
there's nothing
better than
seeing Sting
lying on the
mat, screaming
out in pain."



WWF CHAMPION BRET HART

BRET DOESN'T TAKE ANY CHALLENGE LYING DOWN

Ric Flair, Razor
Ramon, Yokozuna,
Bam Bam Bigelow,
Shawn Michaels,
Headshrinker Fatu,
and Kamala have
something in
common. They all
went after Bret Hart's
WWF World title.
They all came away
with nothing. Hart's
still the champ, and
he's overflowing with
pride





By Craig Peters

WHAT MAKES A champion great? Is it fame, fortune, and becoming a household name? Hulk Hogan certainly had that. Is it longevity? Hogan, Bruno Sammartino, and Bob Backlund all had extended WWF World title reigns.

How about overall talent? In the WWF, Ric Flair, Backlund, and Randy Savage would be at the top of anyone's list of skilled World champs.

Taken individually, none of these criteria alone make a wrestler great. He must combine two or more into a sensational package. Savage and The Iron Sheik weren't great World champions. Neither was Flair. Hogan, Backlund, and Sammartino certainly must be considered three of the greatest WWF World champs.

To the above categories, however, WWF World champion Bret Hart added another: willingness to defend the title several times a week against a wide range of challengers.

He has undertaken the most rugged WWF World title defense schedule since Bruno Sammartino in the '60s and '70s, and has succeeded magnificently.

In defending the WWF World title against the likes of Razor Ramon (above), Bret Hart demonstrates that he is one of the most capable WWF champions in history.

From scientific experts like Flair and Shawn Michaels to big, bruising brawlers like Razor Ramon, Kamala, and Bam Bam Bigelow, Hart has wrestled them all and beaten them all. There can be no doubts about the validity of his title reign or of any claim he makes to being one of the greatest WWF World champions.

Since the moment he won the belt from Flair on October 12, 1992, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Hart has done honor to the title. The skeptics insist Hart's heavy defense schedule will ultimately be his ruin. Hart responds that the title is worthless unless it is defended, and he has no intention of being a paper champion.

"I'd like to think we taught him something about work ethic when he was growing up," said Helen Hart, Bret's mother. "I'm sure there will come a day when he loses the title."



Many believed Hart would not overcome the fury of Bam Bam Bigelow. They believed wrong.

We're prepared for that, but when it happens, Bret will know that he did the best he could. That's all we ever asked of him."

Hart's best is good enough for anyone. Check out this demanding week in the life of a champion, which began at The Royal Rumble on January 24 in Sacramento, California.

Hart, coming off of a grueling series of defenses against Flair, defeated the much larger Ramon by submission at the WWF's pay-per-view annual spectacular.

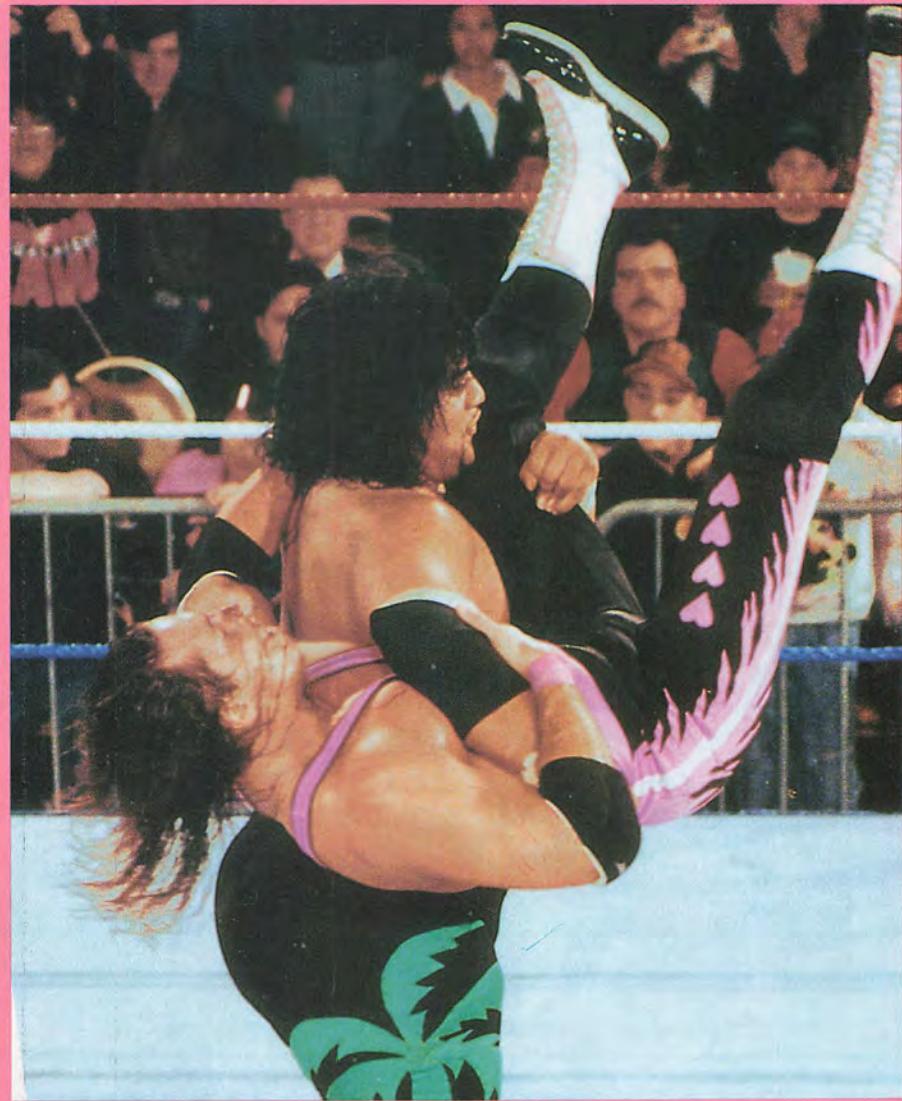
The following night, Hart drove to San Jose, California, and defeated Bam Bam Bigelow. After a cross-continent journey to New York, Hart resumed his dominance over Bigelow with a victory on January 29. The result was the same the following night in Providence, Rhode Island.

Bigelow had enough. He was scheduled to meet Hart again on January 31 at Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto. Yokozuna took Bigelow's place, but the result was the same: another Hart victory.

Eight days. Five cities. Three opponents. Five grueling wins.

Now that's a champion!

Since we're not here to condemn any former champions, merely to



Not even his partner's interference could help Headshrinker Fatu wrest the belt from the "Hitman" (above). Hart won the title from a master of the sport, Ric Flair (below).



praise Hart, let's look at his record without making comparisons. Draw your own conclusions. Rely on your own memories. All WWF World champions are outstanding in some

way.

In addition to his title defenses against Flair—which were, of course, obligatory—Hart took on Michaels, the Intercontinental champion, and



Whether facing giants like Kamala (above left) or quick, smaller men like Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels (above right), Hart knows what must be done to turn back the challenge.

beat him at The Survivor Series. Kamala was no match for Hart on several arena cards. He avenged a loss to Ramon by pinning him at The Royal Rumble. And he defeated Fatu (who received more than a little help from Samu) on national TV.

Everyone thought Bigelow's size and surprising agility would overwhelm Hart. Hart was the winner. The same was true in Hart's matches against the previously invincible Yokozuna.

Who's invincible?

The amazing part is that Hart always wrestles all-out. He doesn't take it easy for his lesser defenses. Hart knows that any man good enough to get a title match must be good enough

to beat him. Even the worst preliminary wrestler could get lucky.

Hart refuses to rely on luck. His "sharpshooter" leglock is an amazingly effective weapon when combined with his excellent scientific skills and peerless stamina.

Hart has redefined stamina when it's applied to wrestling. Hart's stamina isn't from minute-to-minute during a match. It goes from day to day, from city to city, from week to week.

Non-believers have waited for Hart's reign to end ever since it began. When he took on the ambitious defense schedule, everyone thought that would be his doom. Even Hart's best friends privately worried that Hart couldn't

last long.

The WWF is a tough federation. Bret Hart is one tough wrestler.

He will lose the belt one day. It happens to everyone.

Then he will go down with his pride intact, knowing he gave it his best for every moment of his reign. Nobody can complain, "Hart ducked me!" or "Hart didn't give me a fair shake."

There once was a time when challengers had to work their way up the ladder before getting to the champion.

Not during Hart's reign. Want a title shot? Just ask. Hart will grant your wish.

Then get ready for the toughest night of your life! □

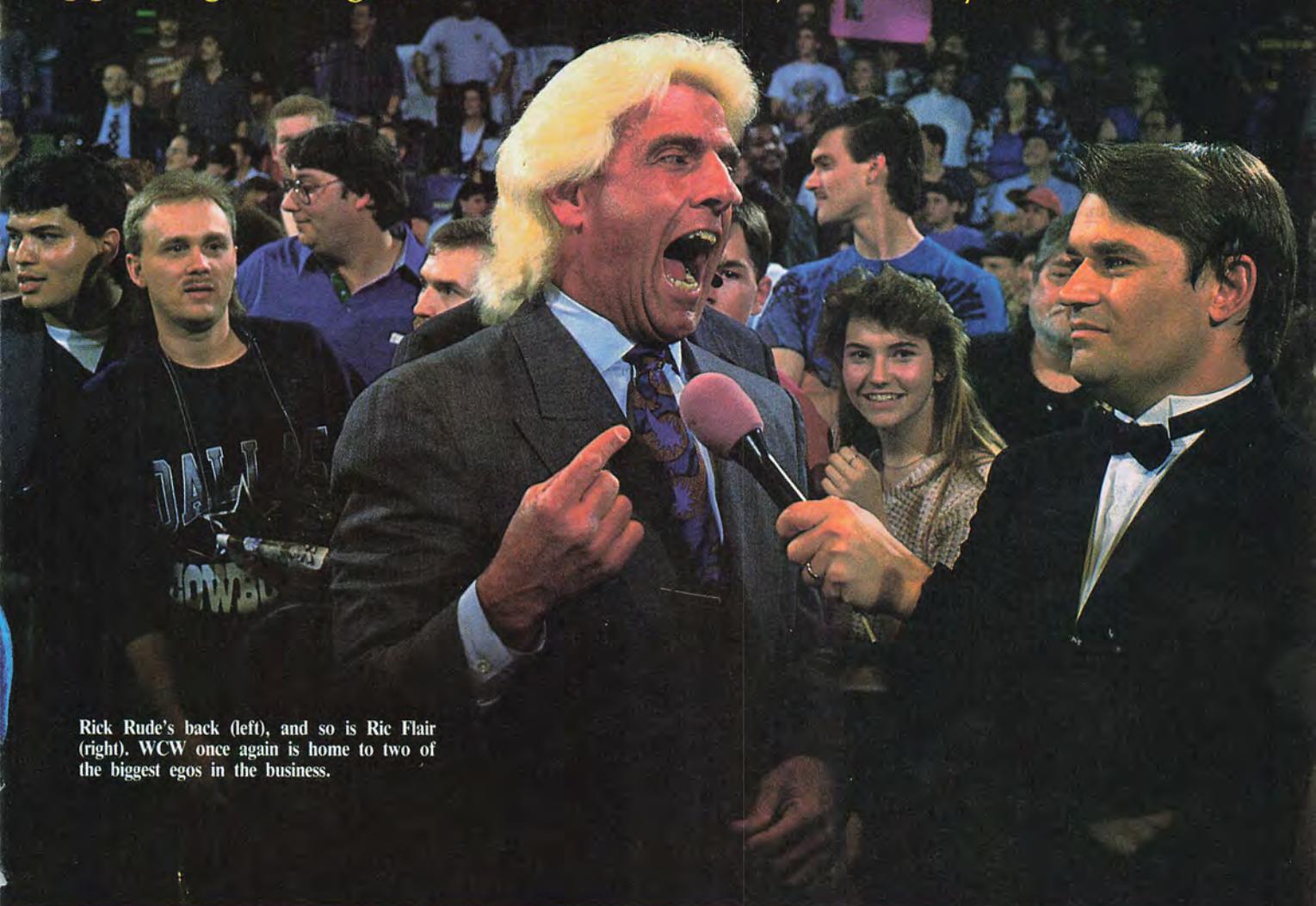
EGOMANIA!

WHY



RIC FLAIR AND RICK RUDE CAN'T CO-EXIST IN WCW

While Rick Rude was sidelined with a neck injury, Ric Flair ceremoniously returned to WCW. Rude has since returned, and now that these two men with gigantic egos are together in the same federation, it could only mean trouble



Rick Rude's back (left), and so is Ric Flair (right). WCW once again is home to two of the biggest egos in the business.

THE MOMENT WAS perfect. Ric Flair couldn't have asked for much more. The stage was all his, and the pay-per-view TV audience had its eyes focused on Flair, its ears ready to take in every word.

Perfect. Perfect for Flair and perfect for WCW, which didn't mind loudly announcing the re-signing of

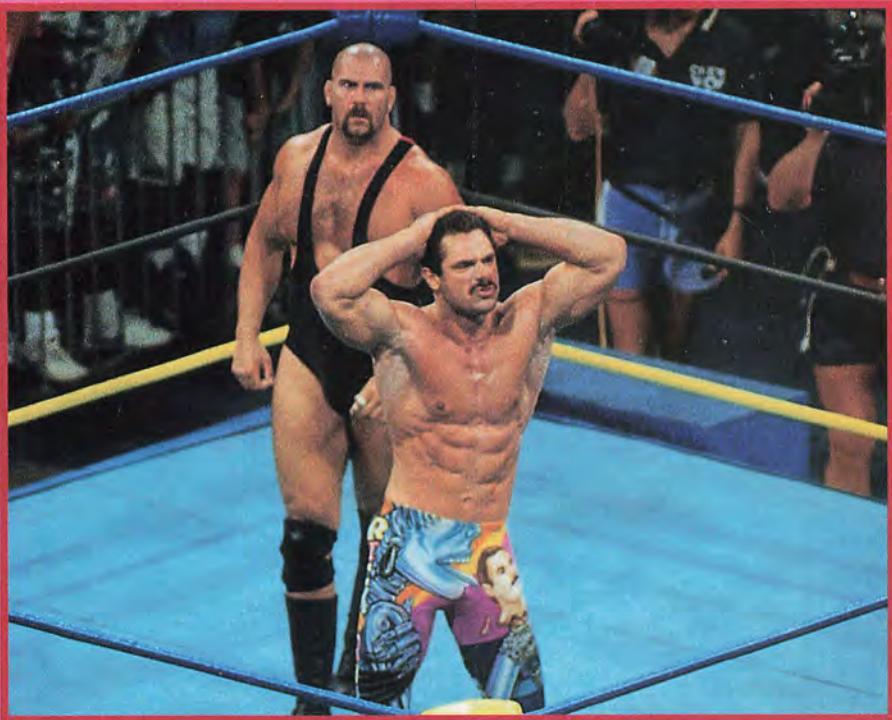
By Dave Rosenbaum

the sport's greatest stars. The fact that SuperBrawl III took place in Flair's home state of North Carolina made for the perfect stage.

It wasn't perfect for Rick Rude. He watched and listened. He saw Flair reintroduced to WCW fans. He listened as Flair provided color commentary on the NWA title match. Of

course, it wasn't really color commentary. It was Flair continuing to tell his never-ending life story.

Rude had heard the chants, the ones that begged, "We Want Flair!" ever since Flair left the federation in 1991 and moved to the rival WWF. Something didn't quite sit right inside Rude. He thought, "Why do



There are times when Rude would rather show off than show his skills. The former U.S. champion insists he has no quarrel with Flair, as long as the "Nature Boy" stays out of his way.

they want Flair when they have me?"

Now WCW fans have both. Flair and Rude. Together. In the same federation. At the same time. It happened once before, back in late-1986 and early-1987, when Flair was defending his fifth NWA World title while Rude and Manny Fernandez had the NWA World tag team belts. Rude wasn't a superstar then, but he is now.

Can two of the biggest egos co-exist in the same federation?

No!

"The potential for trouble is just enormous," said a WCW source. "Rude didn't like it one bit when he heard that Flair was coming back, and from what I've heard, Flair doesn't like the idea of Rude hanging around. These guys are just too much alike. It's almost like looking in the mirror."

Flair and Rude usually like what they see when they look in the mirror, but not in this case. They are too similar to patrol the same ground. Flair thinks he's the greatest. Rude thinks he's the greatest. Flair thinks he's the best looking man in the world. Rude has no doubts that he's a demigod out of *Gentleman's Quarterly*.

the same audience, the same adulation.

But, like a 16-ounce steak being divided between two hungry football players, there's simply not enough to go around. Putting Rude and Flair together in the same federation is like inciting a riot.

They, of course, disagree . . . when speaking for the record.

"I have no trouble with Rick Rude," Flair said. "In fact, we've always gotten along pretty well. He has his own style; I have mine. He has his own agenda; I have mine. As long as our paths don't cross, I don't see why there should be a problem."

"Flair's one of the greatest wrestlers that ever lived and I won't deny that," Rude said. "But I'm also one of the greatest wrestlers that ever lived and I'm gonna be the greatest by the time I'm done. As long as Flair has no problem with that, neither do I."

(Continued on page 50)



Flair is the master of the grand entrance. His return to WCW is bad news to Rude, who sees Flair as stealing the spotlight that should shine on him.

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

CLOSE-UP

DAVEY BOY SMITH

THE FORMER WWF Intercontinental and World tag team champion has renewed fan interest in his career and experienced an incredible resurgence since making his WCW debut at SuperBrawl III . . . Born in Leeds, England, Smith now makes his home in Calgary, Alberta . . . Made his pro debut in England in 1978 at the age of 15 . . . Rapidly improved, facing international competition, and made his North American debut in 1981 . . . Immediately shot to fame because of his outstanding high-flying and scientific skills, gaining a reputation for excellence that spread across North America and into Japan . . . Fate took control of Smith's career in June 1981, when he began a long, intense feud against Canadian junior heavyweight champion Dynamite Kid . . . Smith and Dynamite Kid would later team as The British Bulldogs and enjoy a sensational run in the WWF . . . Although Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy learned to hate each other during their war, hatred quickly turned to mutual respect and, in fact, admiration . . . Smith was green and skinny when he first arrived in Calgary, but he quickly bulked up, adding muscle while not sacrificing speed, stamina, and agility . . . Made his Japan debut in 1983 and was an immediate hit . . . Japanese fans appreciated Smith's high-flying brand of wrestling, and his tour of Japan played to large crowds who were quickly catching on to this new star . . . Power, strength, size, agility, stamina, and quickness combined to make Smith one of the most feared wrestlers in Canada . . . Made amends with Dynamite Kid and shocked the wrestling world by forming a team . . . The new friends perfectly complemented one another, and dazzled everyone with moves never before seen from a tag team . . . Smith and Dynamite Kid were already on the fast track to stardom, but their partnership accelerated the process . . . Arrived in the WWF in 1985, where they became The British Bulldogs . . . At the time, Capt. Lou Albano was looking for a new tag team, and the Bulldogs became the first fan favorite team handled by the former rulebreaking manager . . . On April 7, 1986, at the Rosemont Horizon leg of WrestleMania II, the Bulldogs won the WWF World tag team title from Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake . . . One of the greatest tag team feuds of the past two decades awaited the Bulldogs . . . Smith and Dynamite Kid hooked up against Jim Neidhart and Bret Hart—The Hart Foundation—in a battle of two outstanding teams . . . Things stopped going right for the Bulldogs on December 13, 1986, at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton, Ontario . . . The Bulldogs were defending their title against Bob Orton and Don Muraco when Dynamite Kid suffered a spinal disk injury that demanded surgery . . . Dynamite Kid, fighting seemingly impossible odds—as well as his doctor's orders—made a miraculous return to the ring, but the Bulldogs weren't ready for The Hart Foundation, or manager Jimmy Hart and referee Danny Davis . . . Jimmy Hart bought off Davis, Dynamite Kid reinjured his back, and The Hart Foundation won the title from the Bulldogs on January 26, 1987, at The Sundome in Tampa, Florida . . . The Bulldogs spent



most of the next two years trying in vain to regain the belts from the Harts and, later, Demolition . . . They never got them back, and after competing in the Survivor Series on November 24, 1988, the Bulldogs left the WWF and returned to the Calgary area . . . Western Canada's rabid wrestling fans cheered their return, but disaster awaited . . . First, there was glory . . . On December 7, 1988, the Bulldogs won the Stampede International tag belts from The Cuban Commandos . . . On July 4, 1989, Smith suffered a cracked vertebra and a severe forehead wound in an auto accident on a back road in Canada . . . Thinking Smith's career was over, Dynamite began teaming with Johnny Smith, Davey Boy's brother . . . When Davey Boy returned to the Alberta rings, the bad feelings between Smith and Dynamite Kid resurfaced, and the second Bulldog vs. Bulldog feud was underway . . .

Dynamite Kid and Johnny Smith accused Davey Boy of using the injury to gain sympathy and attacked him upon his return, severing all ties between the two . . . Davey Boy concentrated on singles . . . His Stampede North American title feud with Larry Cameron was one of the bloodiest in the federation's history . . . The battle took an incredible turn on October 27, 1989, when Johnny interfered on Cameron's behalf, helping him defeat Davey Boy . . . The brothers immediately signed for a match . . . On November 3, 1989, Davey Boy battled Johnny to a one-hour brawl that featured outstanding scientific wrestling combined with some frightening brawling . . . There were no winners in this feud . . . Returned to the WWF in 1990, but was forced to work his way up . . . Started feuding with The Warlord when Warlord blindsided him during an arm-wrestling challenge . . . Defeated Warlord in an undercard match of WrestleMania VII on March 24, 1991, in Los Angeles . . . Career track stalled and he wasn't even on the WrestleMania VIII card . . . Things changed, however, in 1992 . . . Bret Hart, Davey Boy's brother-in-law, won the Intercontinental title and Davey Boy challenged him to a match . . . Hart finally accepted the challenge, and the old bad feelings between the former rivals quickly resurfaced . . . Diana Hart, Bret's sister and Davey Boy's wife, begged the two men not to wrestle . . . But on August 29, at SummerSlam '92 in London, England, Davey Boy's homecoming packed Wembley Stadium with 80,000 screaming fans . . . It was a historic match . . . Won the I-C title, and afterward reconciled with Hart . . . Davey Boy's title reign didn't last long . . . On October 27, 1992, suffered a back injury during a title defense against Shawn Michaels . . . With his mobility limited, Davey Boy lost the belt to Michaels . . . Shortly afterward, Smith left the WWF and toured the North American independent circuit . . . Latched on with WCW and made his federation debut on February 21, 1993, in Asheville, North Carolina, using his famous powerslam to pin "Wild" Bill Irwin . . . Shot up in the WCW rankings and has his sights set on another major title . . . Considering the adversity he has already overcome, only a fool would bet against him. □

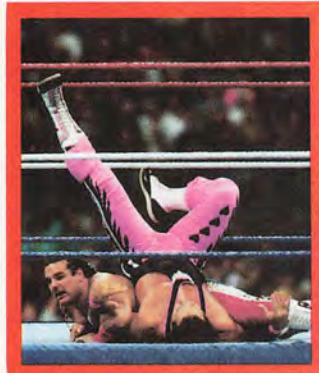
PRO **STYLING**
ILLUSTRATED

DAVEY BOY SMITH
The British Bulldog





CLOSE-UP



FAVORITE MANEUVER

Powerslam. At 5'9", Smith is not a big wrestler. But he fits 245 pounds on that frame and is among the strongest grapplers in the sport. Smith likes to weaken his opponent with shoulderblocks and dropkicks before whipping him into the rope to set him up for the powerslam. WCW's roster is finding out just how strong Smith is.

GREATEST MATCH

August 29, 1992, vs. Bret Hart. The "Hitman" held the Intercontinental title, and prior to this showdown at SummerSlam '92 in London, England, it was revealed that Smith and Hart were brothers-in-law. The tension between the two was unbearable, but Smith channeled it positively and upset Hart in front of 80,000 of his compatriots to win the I-C belt.



TOUGHEST OPPONENT

Shawn Michaels. Just when Smith was settling into his Intercontinental title reign, along came the "Boy Toy" to challenge the "British Bulldog." On October 27, 1992, Michaels whipped Smith into an uncovered turnbuckle, slamming his back against the bare metal. Smith's back later gave out and Michaels won the title. Smith left the WWF a few days later.

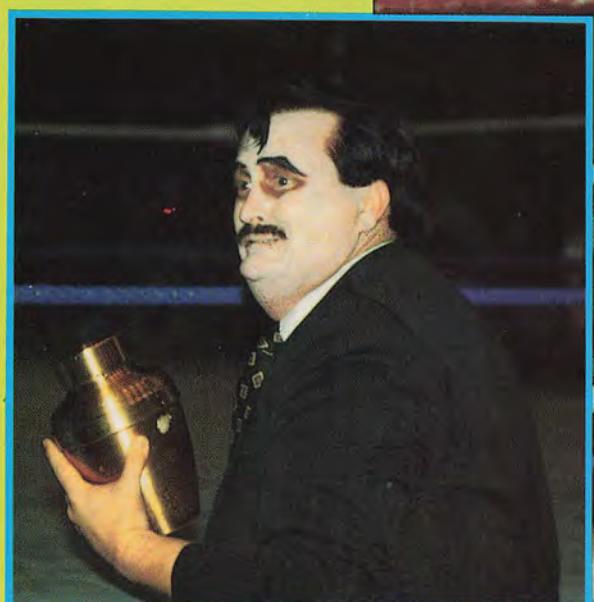


MOST HATED OPPONENT

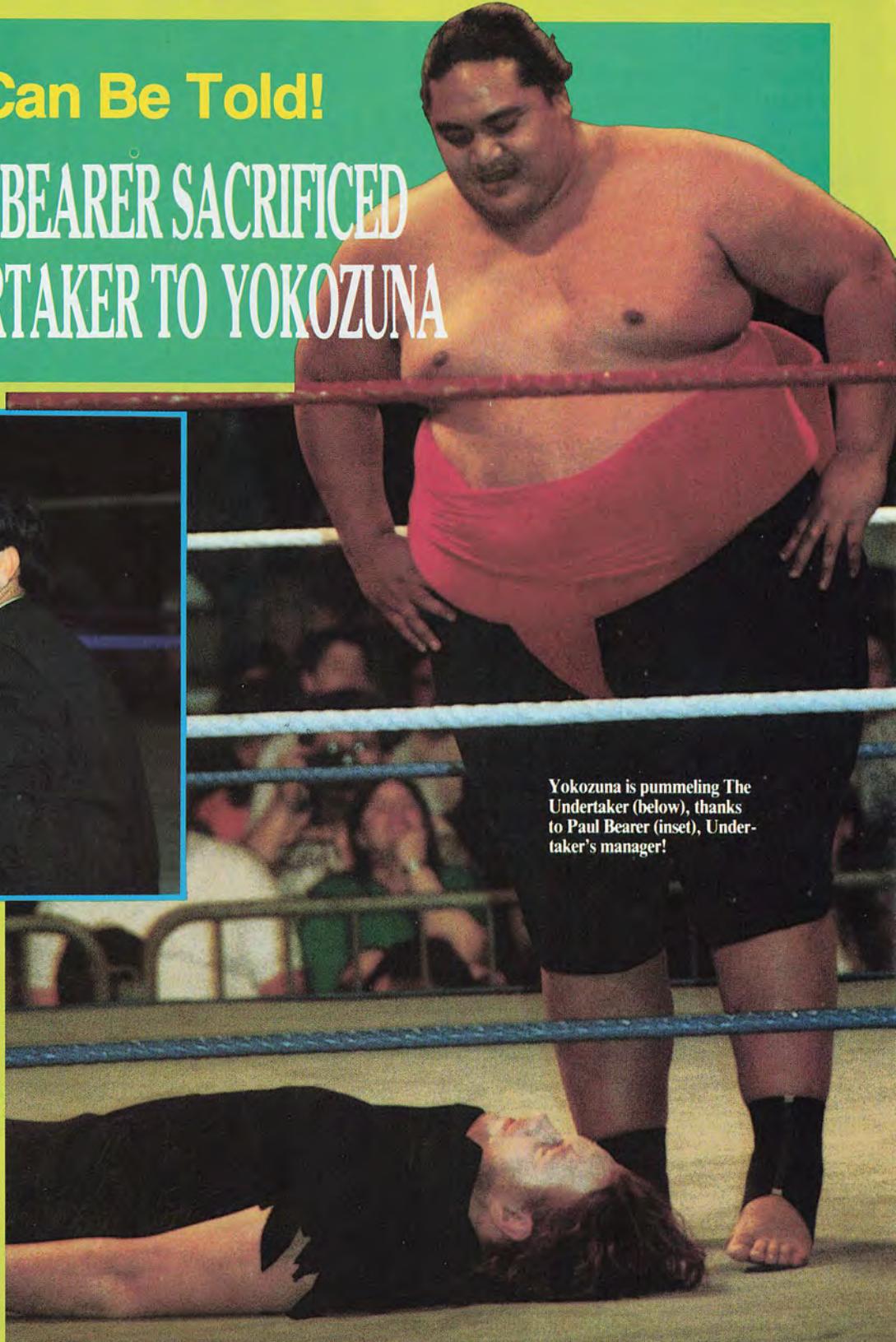
Curt Hennig. Although "Mr. Perfect" is now a fan favorite, there is no love lost between him and Smith. The two were involved in a heated feud in 1991, which Hennig got the best of. Smith gained a measure of revenge when brother-in-law Hart beat Hennig for the I-C title at SummerSlam '91.

Now It Can Be Told!

WHY PAUL BEARER SACRIFICED THE UNDERTAKER TO YOKOZUNA



Paul Bearer saw The Undertaker getting soft. He saw the once-unbeatable wrestler losing his edge. He decided that the only way Undertaker would be great again was to risk destroying his career. He did that by pitting him against Yokozuna, the most dangerous wrestler in the WWF



Yokozuna is pummeling The Undertaker (below), thanks to Paul Bearer (inset), Undertaker's manager!

By Andy Rodriguez

THE UNDERTAKER LOOKED at Yokozuna wearily. Yokozuna looked at Undertaker hungrily. Paul Bearer looked at them both hopefully.

He was hoping he had not made

a big mistake. He was hoping he was not about to destroy The Undertaker's career.

Watching the start of Undertaker's latest encounter with the sumo warrior, Bearer could not help but think

back to the events that lead him to their current predicament.

Last October, Undertaker underwent surgery on his left shoulder. The operation kept him out of action for several weeks. Upon his return,

he scored solid victories over the likes of Nailz and Kamala, but Bearer was not at all satisfied by his man's efforts.

"Paul said that immediately after Undertaker came back from the surgery, there didn't seem to be any problem," said a friend of the manager's. "But then a few weeks later, he began to notice a change. He noticed that Undertaker didn't seem nearly as aggressive as he was before the injury. He said he didn't believe the injury itself was the problem, that it was something else."

Undertaker went on to defeat Kamala at last November's Survivor Series in a "coffin match," but despite the convincing victory, Bearer continued to sense that something was not quite right.

"Bearer started to look for other reasons for Undertaker's lack of fire," the friend recalled. "He started to wonder if maybe the fans' cheers were getting to Undertaker, making him too soft. He had never thought it would be a problem, but he was searching for answers."

What really convinced Bearer there was a problem was what happened at the Royal Rumble in January. During the Rumble, the newly arrived Giant Gonzales came to the ring and jumped in the fray, attacking Undertaker and causing his elimination. Bearer was extremely upset with his man's response.

"As Bearer reads it, up until that time, Undertaker had been perceived as being almost invincible," said another source. "He had this superhuman mystique about him. After Gonzales' blindsight, that perception changed dramatically. Now there was somebody in the federation unawed by Undertaker. It was a humiliating blow for Undertaker and for Bearer."

Suddenly, Bearer did not fear an Undertaker loss as much as he feared an Undertaker loss of momentum. He was not worried that his man's abilities had lessened; he was worried that his motivation had.

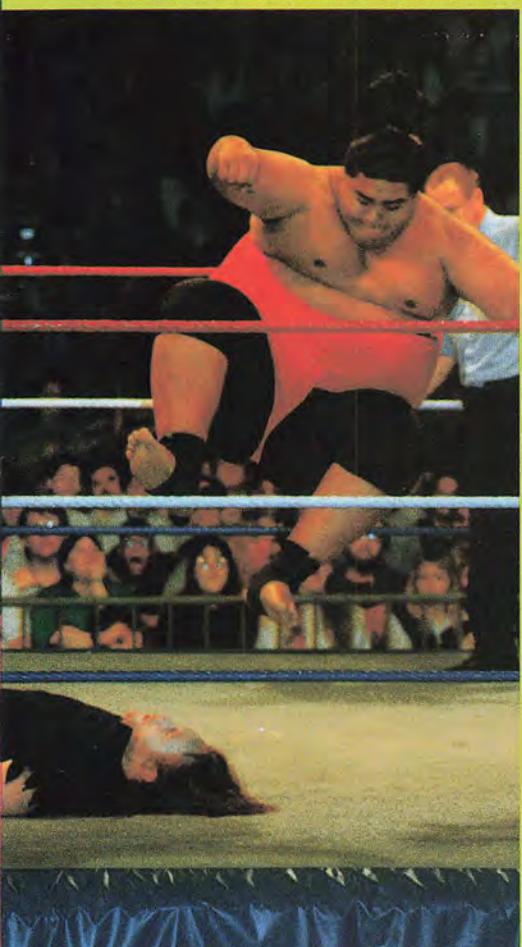


Bodyslams usually don't hurt Undertaker, but they do when Yokozuna executes them (above). Undertaker gets no rest outside the ring, either (below).





Bearer reasons that if Undertaker can withstand Yokozuna, he'll be prepared for any eventuality.



He even began to worry that perhaps Undertaker was afraid of Gonzales.

Bearer convinced himself there was little he could do as a manager. Motivational techniques that had worked in the past were not working now. The answer for Undertaker's woes would have to be found in the ring.

That's where he found Yokozuna.

Like nearly everyone else in the WWF, Bearer had become extremely impressed with the 500-pound Yokozuna. He admired the man's size, power, and agility. Most importantly, he respected his desire and ruthlessness.

At a recent WWF press conference, Senior Editor Bill Apter asked Bearer about the sumo sadist.

"He didn't let on too much," Apter recalled. "He said that Yokozuna is a fine wrestler and that he moves well for a big man. He added that if Yokozuna and Undertaker ever locked up, it would be a great match."

That was the public side of Bearer.

Privately, unbeknownst even to Undertaker, Bearer petitioned WWF officials for matches with Yokozuna. Bearer saw in Yokozuna an opportunity. An opportunity not for himself, but for Undertaker. He realized that Yokozuna could make Undertaker great again.

"Bearer believed that if Undertaker could beat Yokozuna and beat him convincingly, that would assure him he should fear absolutely no man, including Gonzales," said a former managerial colleague.

However, just a few minutes into the first match between them, Bearer feared that he may not have had such a good idea. Egged on by his manager, Mr. Fuji, the behemoth laced into Undertaker with amazing fury. What was intended to be medicine for what ailed Undertaker was beginning to look like target practice for Yokozuna.

Undertaker fought back and won the contest by disqualification when Yokozuna began hitting him with his salt basket. Still, Bearer's fears had not been calmed. He believed Undertaker should have acquitted himself much better.

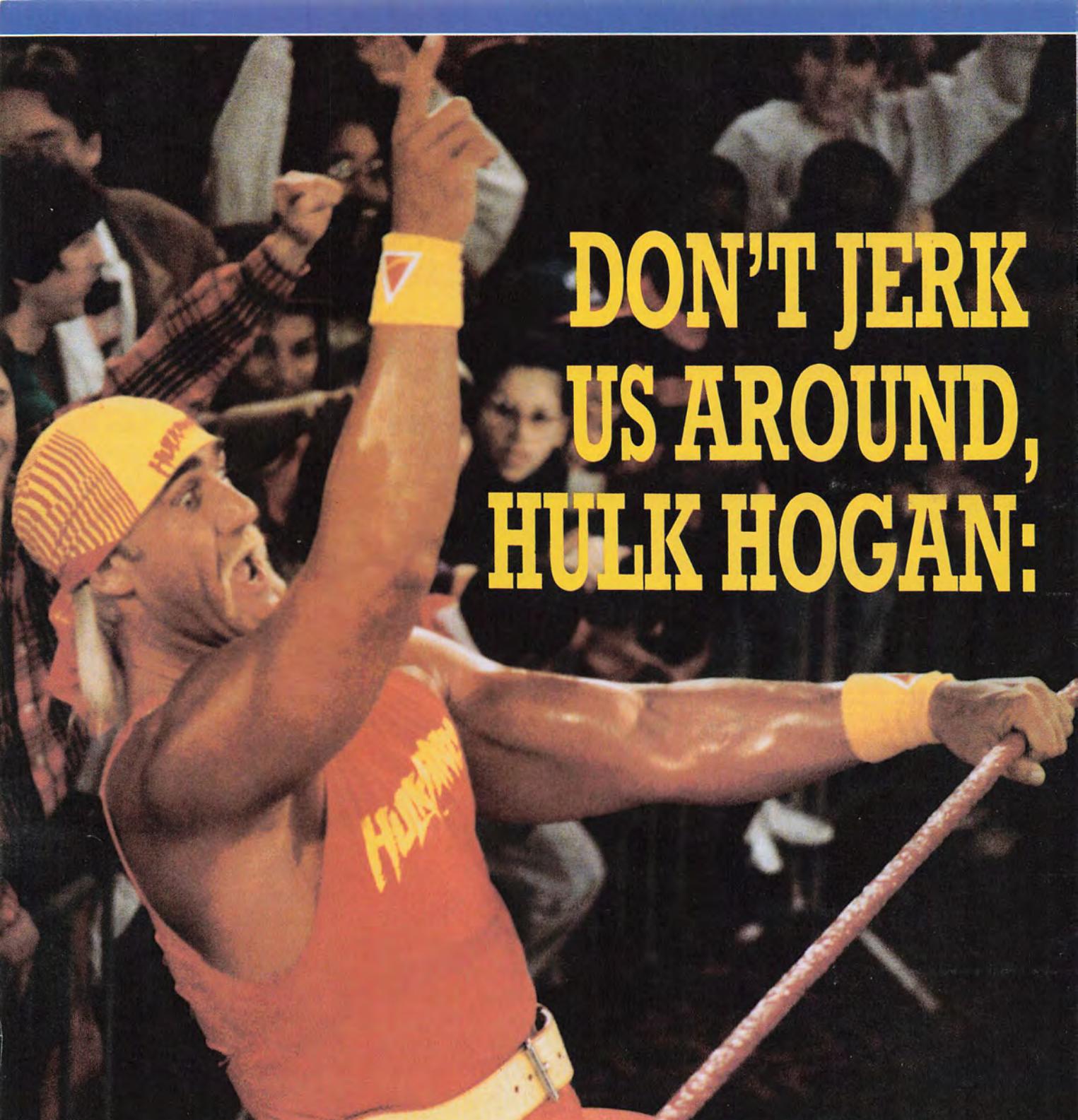
The manager decided to tell his charge the truth. He told him he had arranged for a whole series of bouts against Yokozuna.

"Rather than being upset by the news, Undertaker became more fired up," said Bearer's colleague. "He realized what Bearer was trying to do and respected him for it. It may have been a blow to his ego, but he didn't let on."

Subsequent matches, though, have been just as harrowing for Undertaker. Yokozuna has been just as furious, just as eager to use his foe as a steppingstone to title glory.

Bearer is willing to take the chance. He knows that at any moment, the quarter-ton mauler could end his man's days in the ring.

And when he looks up in the ring and sees them facing each other, Bearer hopes he has done the right thing. □



DON'T JERK US AROUND, HULK HOGAN:

By Dave Rosenbaum

A REPORTER WHO has dealt with Hulk Hogan on countless occasions over the past 13 years recently summed up the "Hulkster's" character.

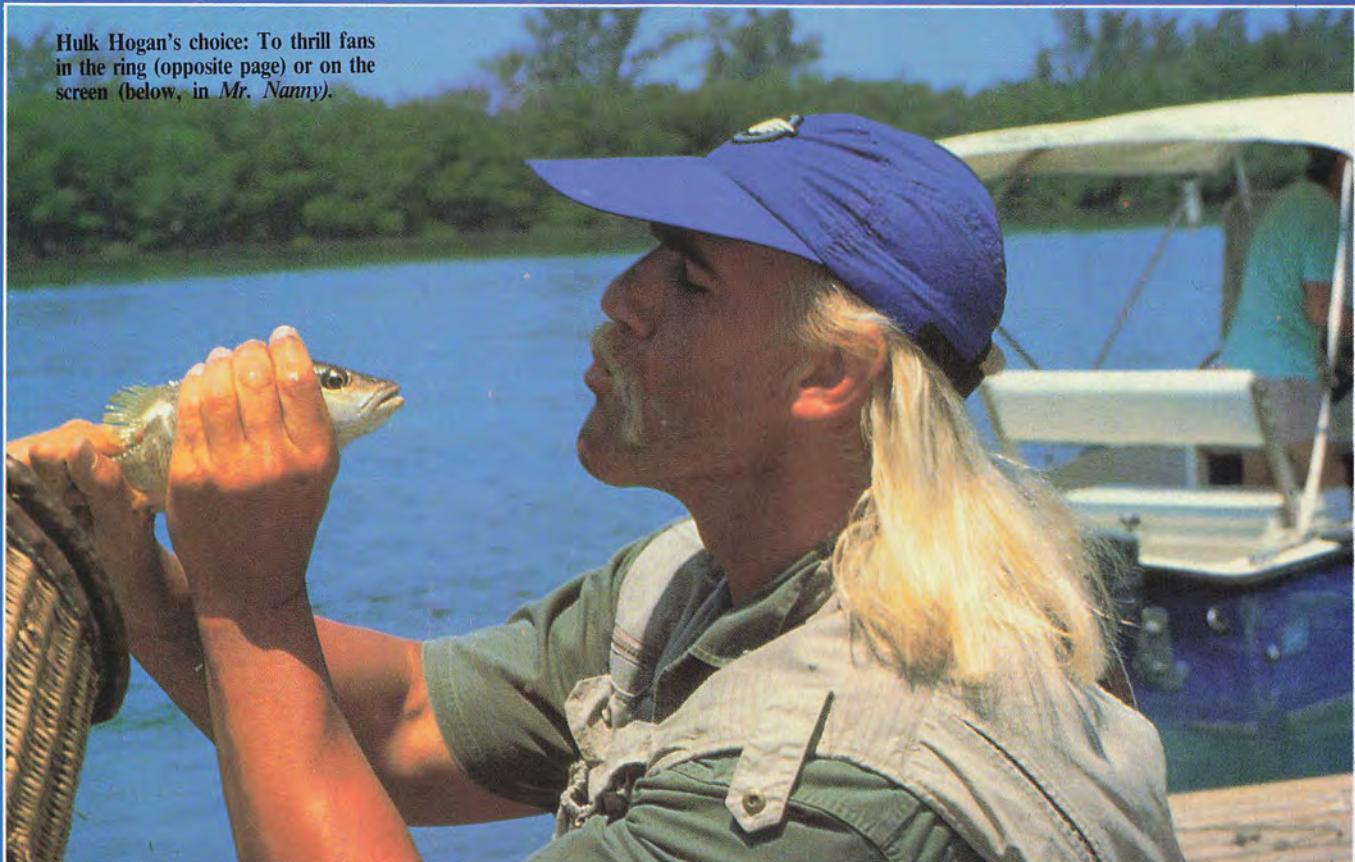
"Basically, he's a good man," the reporter said. "But he can also be a bit of a user. He'll tell the fans they're his best friends, but then

he'll turn his back on them. There's never been a wrestler more popular than Hogan, but on the other hand, there's never been a wrestler who knows how to use his fans better than Hogan.

"And, the crazy thing about it is, Hogan doesn't even realize what he's doing."

This is an interesting summation in light of Hogan's recent activities. In mid-February, Hogan made a stunning return to the WWF after nearly a year of "retirement." Hogan's return on *WWF Monday Night Raw*, combined with the announcement of his partnership with Brutus Beefcake under the

Hulk Hogan's choice: To thrill fans in the ring (opposite page) or on the screen (below, in *Mr. Nanny*).



ARE YOU BACK OR NOT?

Hulk Hogan's WWF return thrilled millions of fans, but it also left them wondering: Is Hogan back for good, or is the WWF a temporary stopover between films? This question must be answered. . . and Hogan must do the answering

management of former rival Jimmy Hart, was fodder for every wrestling fan's imagination.

Would Hart turn against Hogan?

Are The Megamaniacs capable of winning the World tag team title?

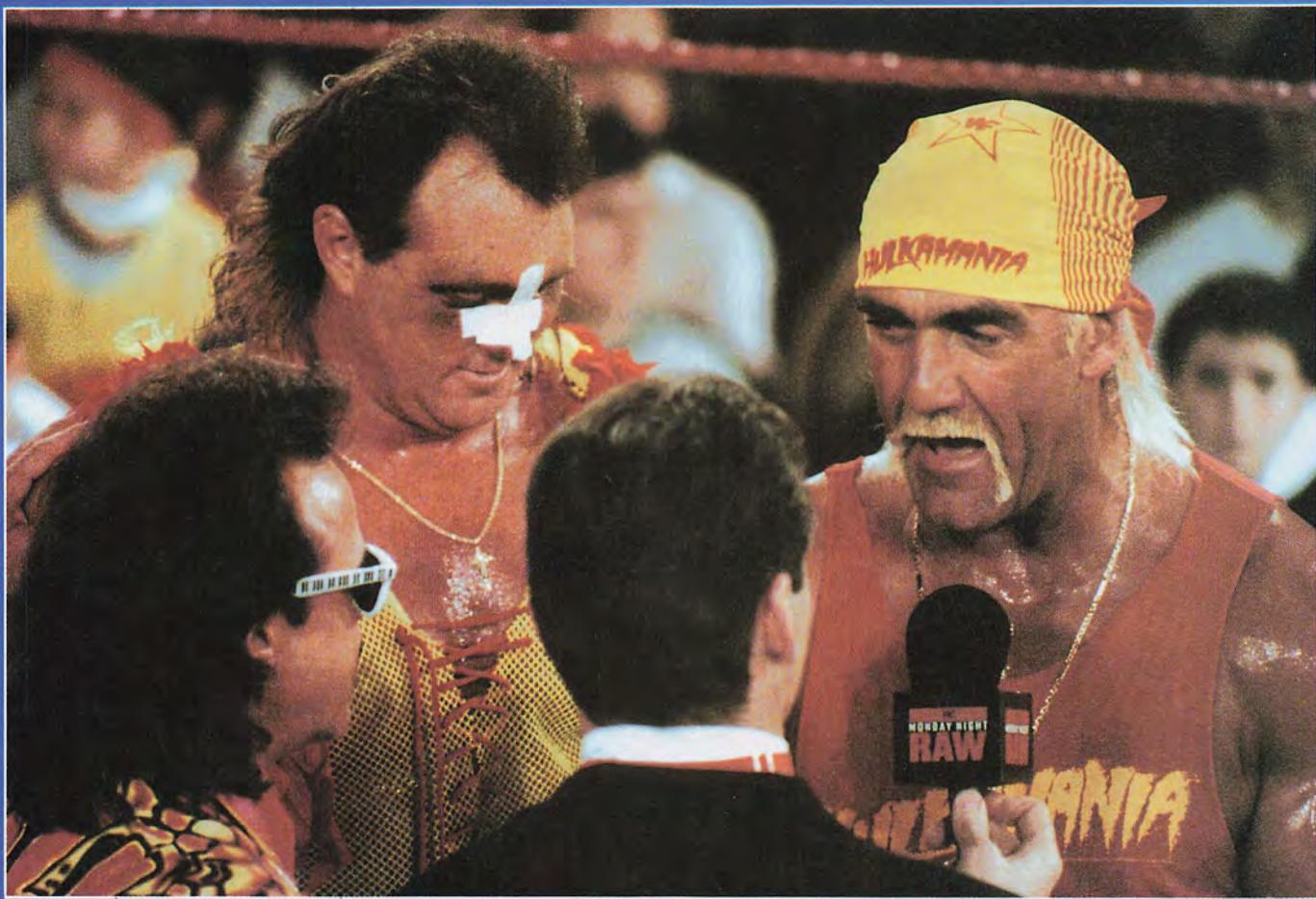
Will Hogan go after his fifth WWF World title?

And, most importantly, is Hogan back for good?

There have been other departures and other returns. One summer, it looked as if Hogan's career was over. Then, encouraged by fan support, Hogan made a remarkable return and went on to win another WWF World title.

But this retirement was supposed to be for keeps. When Hogan defeated Sid Justice at WrestleMania VIII, the wrestling world was prepared to say goodbye forever.

Hogan resumed his movie career, filming the New Line Cinema release *Mr. Nanny*. That film is



sure to be a classic in the mode of *No Holds Barred* and *Suburban Commando*, two other Hogan vehicles. The world anxiously awaited his next project. A remake of *Casablanca*, perhaps, with Hogan in the role of Rick, the heartbroken cafe owner? Or, perhaps, Hogan as Lawrence of Arabia? Who knows?

Then Hogan returned to the ring, and now fans are wondering what's going on. Is his return for real? Or will Hogan collect a few fast bucks, reestablish his place in the minds of wrestling fans, and flee to Hollywood for another masterpiece? The rumor mill has Hogan returning to La-La Land this summer to begin filming a pilot for a TV series entitled *Thunder In Paradise*.

Is Hogan after the World title? Or is Oscar on his mind?

The fans would like to know, but Hogan won't give them a clue. Rumors are circulating that Hogan is on the verge of another depar-

The "Hulkster's" return to the WWF (above) raised the hopes of thousands of Hulkamaniacs who would rather see him wrestle than act in films like *Suburban Commando* (below).



ture, and the fans don't like it.

So what's it gonna be, Hulk? Are you going? Or are you staying? Stop using the fans ... make up your mind and settle theirs.

"I don't think Hogan ever said what he was up to," WWF expert Thomas Pilliard said. "He never really announced, 'I'm back to stay,' but on the other hand he never said, 'This is temporary. I'm here on a mission. Don't get used to me being back.'

"Of course, that serves Hogan's purpose. He wants to be indecisive. I think he wants to make up his mind as he goes along."

If Hogan stays, fine. There will always be a place for him in wrestling. His film career is off to a rocky start anyway.

A problem arises if Hogan continues to use wrestling as a temporary pit stop between films. If Hogan uses wrestling to remain in the public eye and retain his hero status, then he's doing the fans a great disservice. The WWF would be guilty, too.

The WWF can't revolve around Hogan coming and going. If Hogan was an ordinary wrestler, he could come and go as he pleases. Hogan, of course, is not an ordinary wrestler. His returns and departures are front-page news, and his movements disrupt the federation.

Several WWF wrestlers told us that they plan their match schedules and their long-term goals around who is in the federation. For example, if Hogan is in the federation, power wrestlers take notice and silently acknowledge that winning a major title might be tough. Scientific wrestlers say to themselves, "How can I deal with his strength?"

It's also unfair to the regular WWF stars that Hogan immediately steps into the spotlight upon arriving. There is no climbing the ladder for Hogan. What he says goes, and when he tells the WWF

When Hogan finishes with Money Inc.'s Ted DiBiase, will he return to Hollywood or continue wrestling and pursue a fifth title? He is leaving few clues.



to jump, the WWF jumps.

The wrestlers resent that. It's bad enough that Hogan can set his own agenda. What's worse is that Hogan is allowed to take over.

Hogan is different. That's what this is all about.

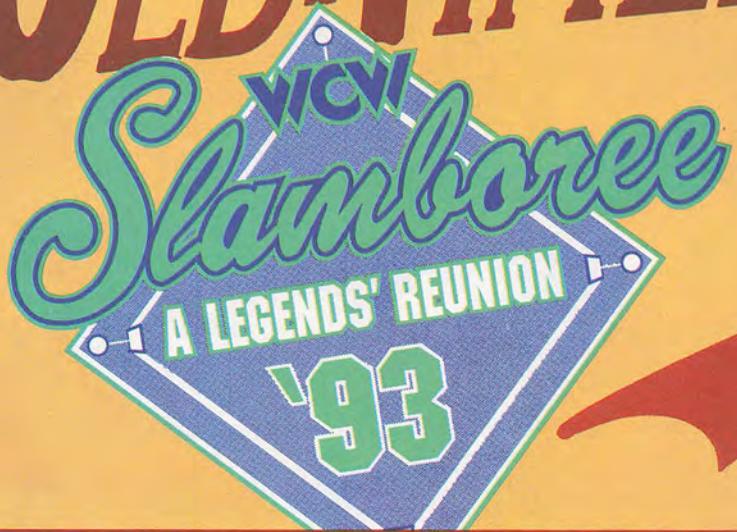
"Wrestling in a major match at WrestleMania is a major goal for every wrestler, but when Hogan just shows up two months before the biggest card of the year, he takes a spot that another wrestler

has been working for all year," one WWF wrestler said. "[Bret] Hart vs. Yokozuna lost a lot of its luster when Hogan and Beefcake vs. Money Inc. was announced. All of a sudden, the World title match became secondary."

Hogan doesn't care. He leads his own life. Fine.

But it's interfering with everyone else's life. C'mon, Hogan! Stay and wrestle, or get out and stay out. You can't have it both ways. □

OLD-TIMERS DAY- WITH A



Dusty Rhodes! Lou Thesz! The Sheik! Verne Gagne! And more! They'll all gather for WCW's first celebration of wrestling's greatest stars. And you're invited to wine and dine on our sport's glorious past!

By Dave Rosenbaum

THE SHEIK IS looking forward to May 22, but most of all he's looking forward to May 23. A few decades ago, there was nothing The Sheik liked more than a romp in the ring and a few bites out of an unwilling opponent's neck ... John Tolos' neck, perhaps.

On May 22, The Sheik will be chomping on real food, joining Tolos and other legendary mat stars at an honorary dinner for one of the biggest weekends in the sport's history. And you can join him!

The following day, The Sheik may just take another long-awaited bite out of Tolos' neck. And you can watch him!

The madman will be one of the many guests at Slamboree '93, a veritable wrestling convention-cum-feast of stars old and new, fans old, new, and in-between, and the most fun any wrestling junkie could ever have.

When some of wrestling's greatest old-timers gather in Atlanta for two days of fun, food, and sport, you can be there or watch it

all live on pay-per-view.

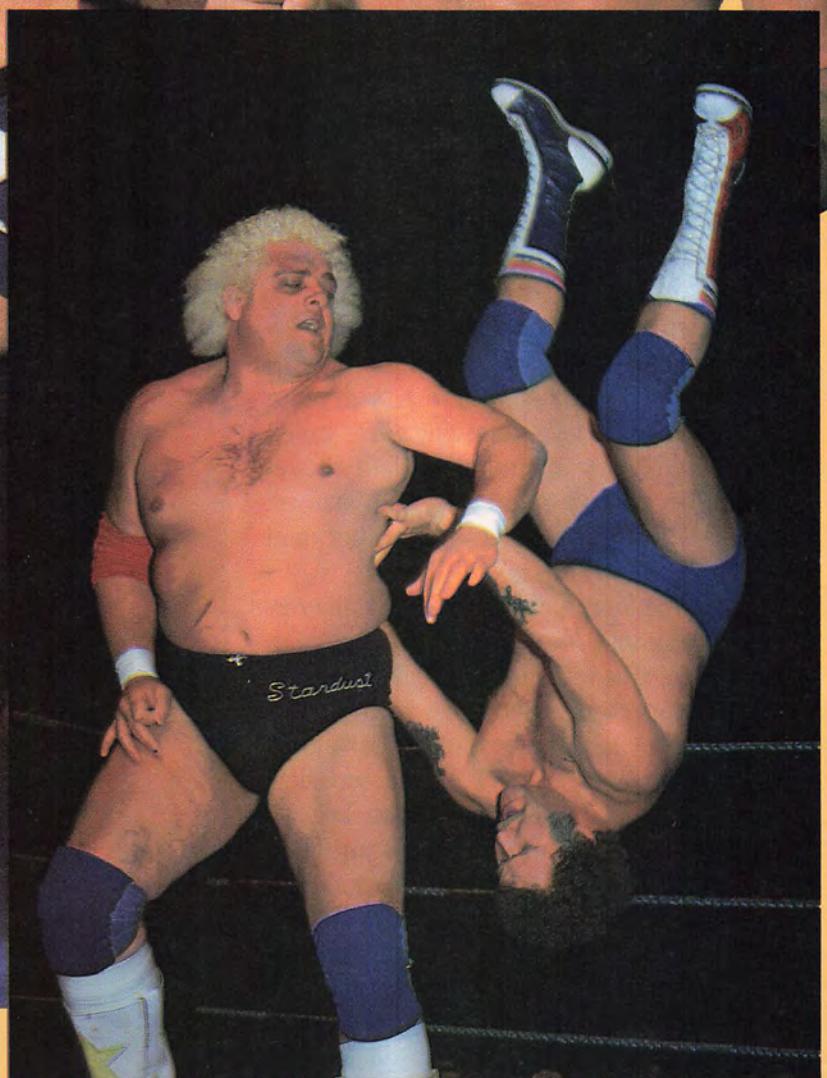
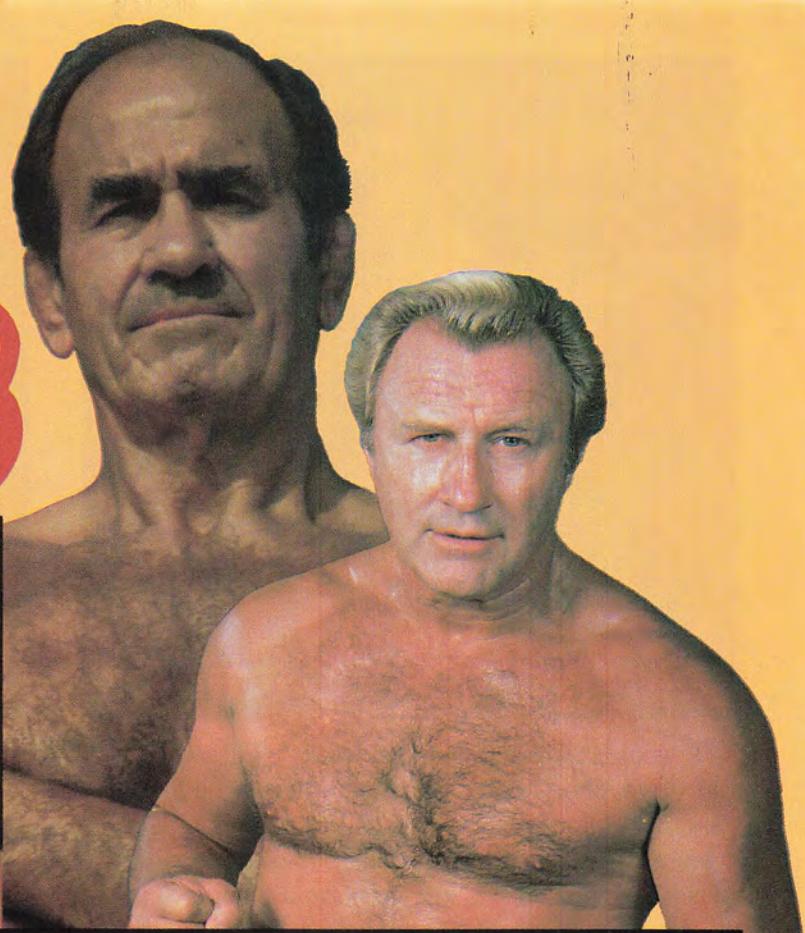
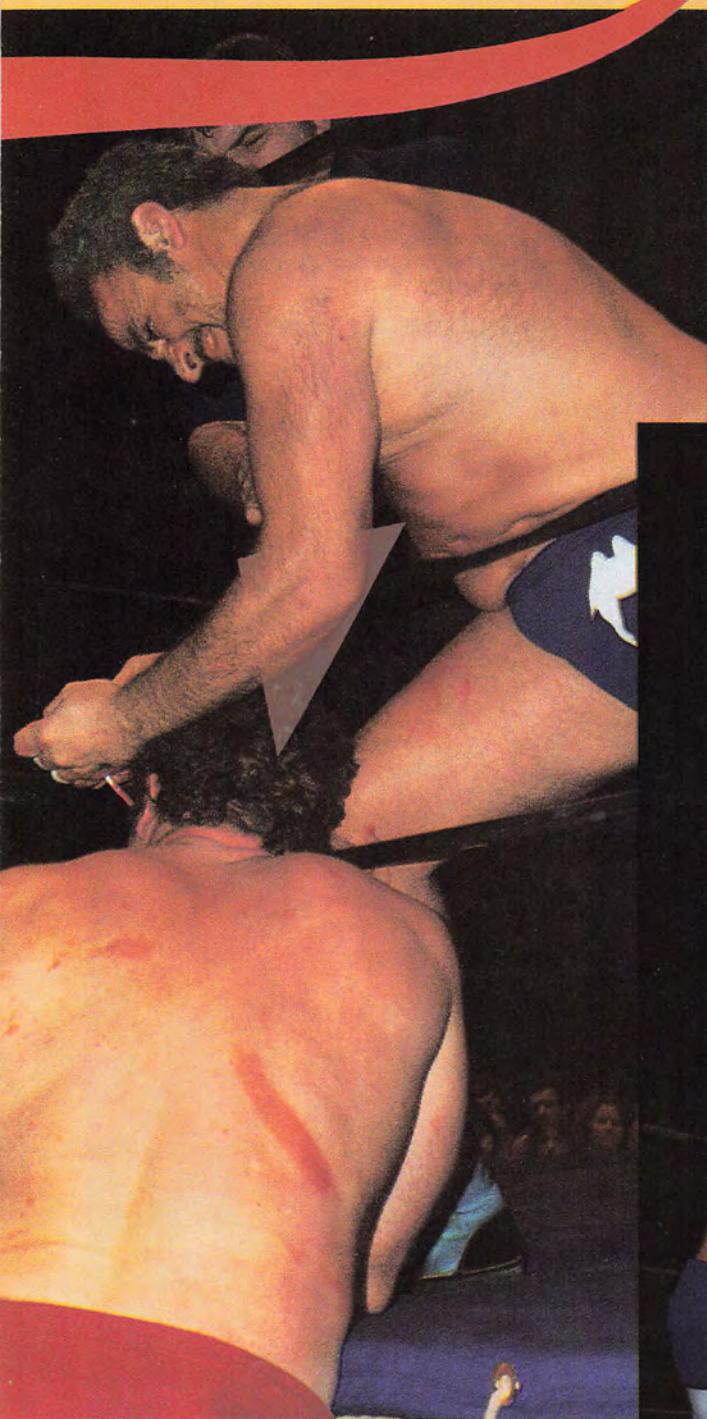
But there's a difference. Catch it live and you'll also catch dinner. Catch it on PPV and you'll have to send out for pizza.

The choice is yours. Either way, it promises to be an interesting, exciting, and nostalgic weekend ... a first of its kind!

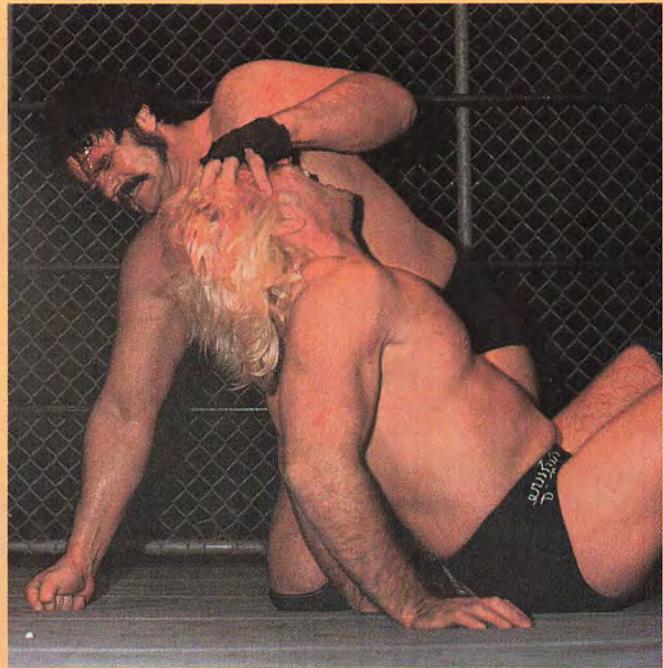
Just look at the lineup. Along with The Sheik and Tolos, it includes Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka; former WWF World champion Ivan Koloff; Blackjack Mulligan; three-time former NWA World champion Dusty Rhodes; nine-time former AWA World champion Verne Gagne; four-time former AWA World champ Nick Bockwinkel; women's wrestling legend The Fabulous Moolah; Wahoo McDaniel; former NWA president and wrestler Bob Geigel; Dick Murdoch; and the great Lou Thesz, a six-time former NWA champion.

At press time, the complete lineup hadn't been finalized, but retired wrestlers around the world were making plans to be in Atlanta for this much-anticipated event.

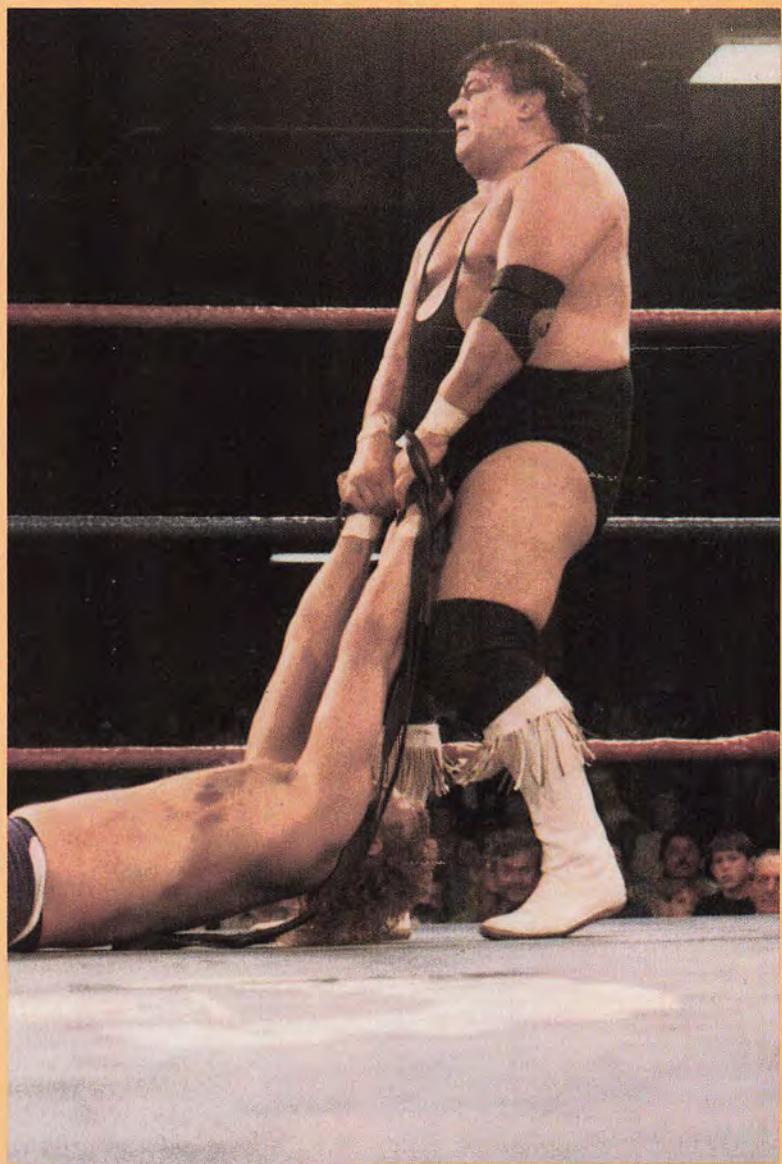
TWIST



Clockwise from above: The Sheik vs. old enemy John Tolos, ex-World champions Lou Thesz and Nick Bockwinkel, and Dusty Rhodes vs. Harley Race.



The Fabulous Moolah (above left) was women's world champion for 28 years. Blackjack Mulligan was a master of the clawhold (above right). Wahoo McDaniel (below) says he'd still face any man in the sport in a strap match.



"I wouldn't miss it for the world," Thesz said. "I've often thought that wrestling's old stars are often ignored. Heck, there's not even a wrestling Hall of Fame, and there should be. Well, this is just great, and I hope the fans come out like I think they will."

Just in case a trip down memory lane isn't your idea of a fun weekend, the live PPV telecast on Sunday night from The Omni also includes important title matches. WCW World champion Big Van Vader and NWA champion Barry Windham will put their belts on the line, thus turning this history-recalling event into a history-making event.

Here's what will happen: On Saturday afternoon, the wrestlers will gather at the Lanier Plaza Hotel to meet with fans, sign autographs, and just talk wrestling. It's called SlamFest. Wrestling memorabilia and souvenirs of the event will be on sale, and fans will have the chance to meet each other and speak with the wrestlers.

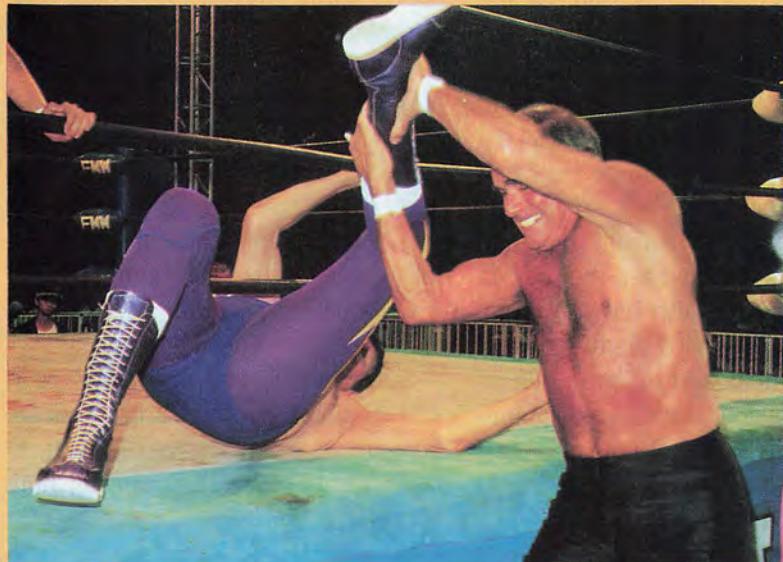
That's what makes Slamboree '93 a wrestling convention!

At 5 p.m., the weekend's festivities continue with a gala SlamFeast dinner at the hotel. Fans will have the opportunity to eat alongside the old-timers and all of the wrestlers will be introduced. There will also be live cutaways to *WCW Saturday Night* on TBS.

The PPV card begins at 7 p.m. Sunday at The Omni, featuring legends against legends and present-day champions vs. challengers. You can bet the bouts will be wild, even though most of the legends have been out of action for several years. (Snuka still wrestles



"Superfly" Jimmy Snuka (above) remains an active competitor. In 1992, Tolos returned to the ring to face another legend, Killer Kowalski (below).



Early in their careers, Dick Murdoch and Rhodes were partners. Later, they feuded violently (above).

in Portland, Oregon, and The Sheik remains active in Japan.)

"Let me tell you something, I've been going stir crazy for the past year," Dusty Rhodes said. "I can't wait to get into that ring and show the people what I can still do. 'The Dream' is still alive, and he's gonna be kickin' on May 23, baby."

The Sheik can't wait to get his hands on some prime rib, but would also love to get his hands on Tolos. At press time, Moolah's opponent was unknown, but she's looking forward to showing a thing or two to the new breed of female wrestler.

"These days, women's wrestling boasts some of the most incredible athletes in the sport," Moolah said. "But it still all boils down to toughness, and in that department I think I can still show these gals a thing or two."

Slamboree '93 will give Moolah and the rest of the legends a chance to show off their substantial skills.

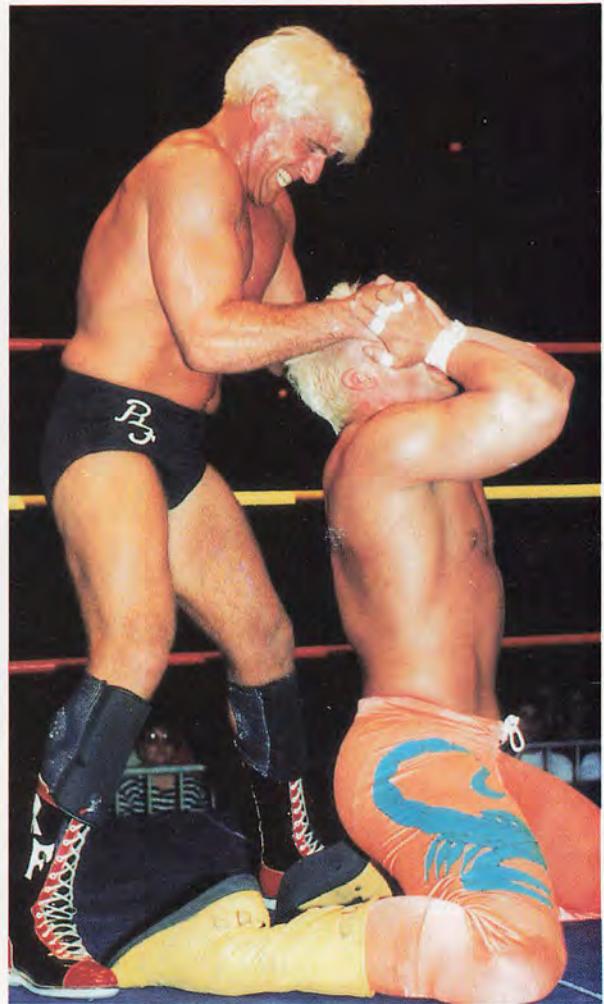
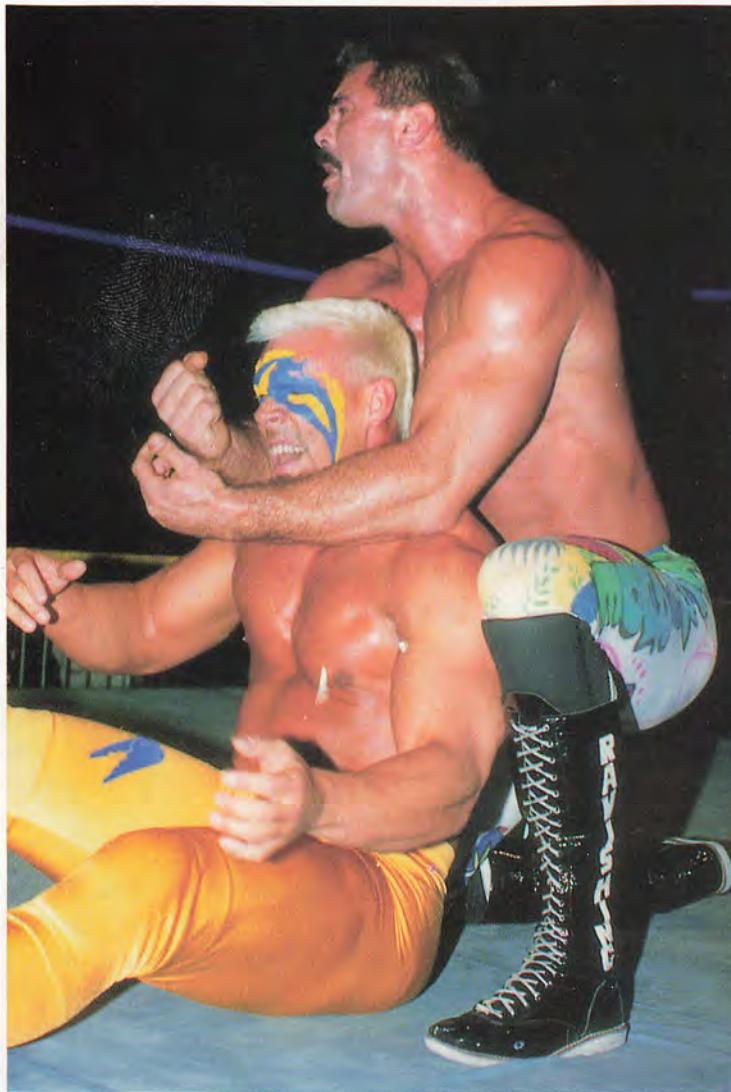
For those fans who thrived to watching these wrestlers, get ready for a real treat. For those younger fans who never saw these legends, you're in for an eye-opening experience.

Slamboree '93: It takes the sport back to the future!

Tickets for the live card are \$25, \$15, \$8, and \$5 and are available at The Omni box office and TicketMaster outlets. Packages including tickets to *SlamFest*, *SlamFeast*, and *Slamboree '93*, are available. Tickets to the events are also being sold separately. The price of the PPV will be \$24.95. □

EGOMANIA

(Continued from page 34)



Rude and Sting feuded over the U.S. title (left), while Flair took on the "Stinger" for the World belt (above). At the moment, neither man wants Sting, and they certainly don't want each other.

Ah, but we know Flair does have a problem with that. After winning two WWF World titles, Flair returned to WCW specifically to claim his 10th overall world title. His place in wrestling history assured, Flair is now shooting for the stratosphere.

Rude wants no part of Flair as champion. Despite enjoying success wherever he's wrestled—Rude always manages to win a title—Rude has never held a singles world championship. He's always been second-best. In the WWF, Rude was Intercontinental champion. In WCW, he was U.S. champion.

Rude might have his sights set on regaining the U.S. title, but everyone knows he is looking at the big picture. His place in wrestling history

isn't assured until he wins the world championship that will vault him into superstardom.

"Rude wants to be Flair in the worst way," one WCW rulebreaker said. "Flair always says that if you want to be the man, you have to beat the man. Well, it doesn't take a genius to figure that Rude modeled himself after Flair, but so far he hasn't won anything really major. If Rude wants to be Flair, he has to beat Flair and he also has to accomplish some of what Flair has done."

Rude's outspoken manner, ring attire, and overall antics are reminiscent of Flair. Rude, of course, insists that he's an original. Flair thinks otherwise.

Flair needs to be *the* man in a

federation. He doesn't want a fight for the glory, and everything that comes with it. He wants it handed to him. Rude won't let Flair go unchallenged.

That's what happens when two enormous egos collide. There must be trouble. Make no mistake: It's not coincidence that Flair and Rude have been in the same federation for only a few months of their careers. They follow each other very closely.

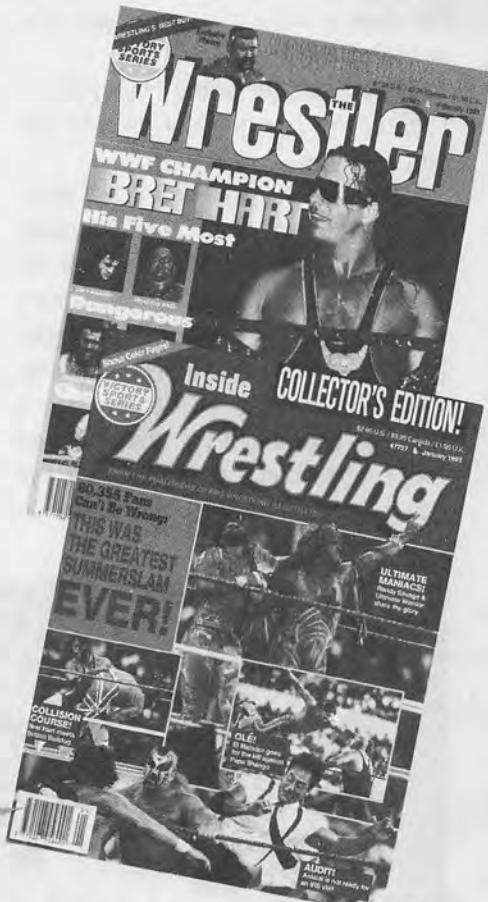
Of course, they'll deny this to the end.

"I've never picked my spots," Flair said. "I don't care who's in a federation, because I'm always the man. If Rude wants to be the man, let him come after me."

He will. That's a guarantee. □

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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 27)

hand they're counting their money. All I've done is make a lot of people rich, including me.

PETERS: Yeah, including Harley Race. I guess the big question is, why do you hate Sting so much?

VADER: I don't hate Sting. I feel sorry for him. He and I are total opposites and there's just not room enough for me and him in the same state, much less the same federation. He thinks having the fans love you is everything. I think it's nothing. All I care about is winning. Let me tell you this: I've broken a lot of bones in my life, but I've never seen any break as easily as Sting's.

ELLNER: He's that brittle, huh? Listen, I'll be the first to admit that Sting's a great wrestler, but he's a bit of a soft touch when it comes to absorbing a little punishment.

VADER: That's because he's never absorbed a little punishment from me; he gets everything. There's no holding back when it comes to pummeling Sting and I've never held back. Harley over here sometimes tells me to keep a little energy in reserve, but in my mind there's nothing better than seeing Sting lying on the mat, screaming out in pain.

PETERS: That's real nice, Vader. But let's face it: He had your number in

that "White Castle Of Fear" match.

VADER: He had nothing. He lost. I won.

ROSENBAUM: And you ended up in the hospital.

VADER: Yeah, I bumped my head. So what?

PETERS: Sounds to me like you might be a soft touch in the head.

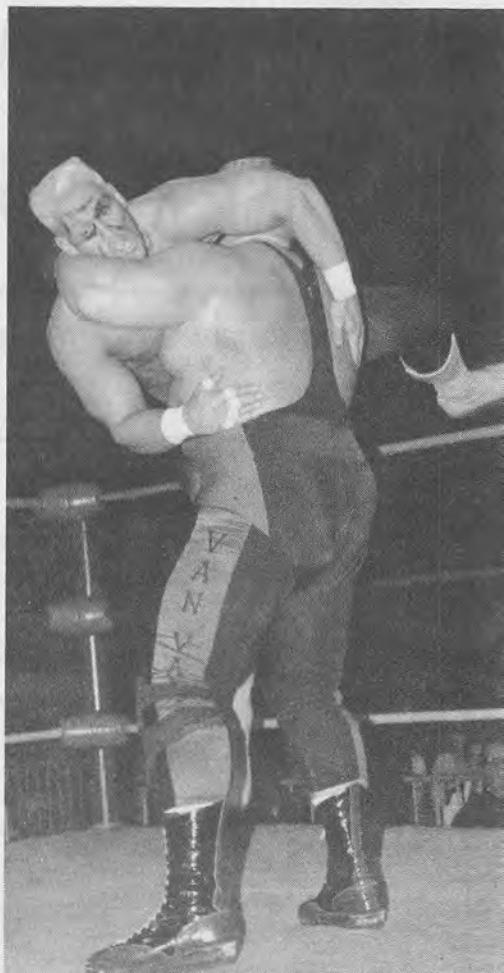
VADER: You have a wise mouth, Peters, and you'd be wise to shut it. The only reason I haven't broken you in half is because it'd be too easy. Why waste my time?

PETERS: Sure. You have bigger fish to fry, right?

VADER: That's right. Everybody comes after the champion and I'm ready for all of them. But if you've noticed, everybody's coming after me a little slower. I may have the belt, but nobody really wants to lock up with me.



Vader says he never tires of beating on Sting, outside the ring (above) or in it (right). The frightening behemoth won his first World title by defeating Sting at 1992's Great American Bash.





There is nothing Vader enjoys more than playing the "pain game." His manager, Harley Race, maintains that the World champion is prepared to play that game for as long as his opponent wants.

They know how I play the "pain game," they know the price of trying to take this belt from me. That price is too high for most people.

ELLNER: Speaking of prices, isn't it time we wiped out the illusion that Race set up the feud between Cactus Jack and Paul Orndorff to keep them away from you?

RACE (incredulous): What?!

VADER: That's ridiculous. Orndorff's a good wrestler and Jack has rocks in his head, but I'd handle either one of them with no trouble at all. I don't care. I'll wrestle them both at the same time.

ROSENBAUM: Let's be serious. How come you've never offered to wres-

tle Orndorff or Cactus Jack?

VADER: They haven't asked for a match. If they do, I won't run from anyone.

PETERS: Something tells me this was all Race's doing.

RACE: Hey, Peters, if you're not going to believe the answers, don't ask the questions. And don't accuse me or my man of lying. That's not smart.

PETERS: It has nothing to do with lying. It has to do with getting to the heart of Big Van Vader, which is what we're trying to do here—without much success.

VADER: You wanna get to the heart of Big Van Vader? Well, then just look at a tape of me wrestling Sting. Take a look at my face ...

PETERS: How are we supposed to do that? You're wearing a mask.

VADER: Look beyond that. My eyes aren't covered. Look into my eyes. Are those the eyes of a man you'd want to meet up with in a dark alley? I don't think so.

ELLNER: You're not afraid of anyone, are you?

VADER: That's right. I'll admit, sometimes I'm afraid of myself. I want to hurt people. I don't want to kill them.

RACE: And this interview is over. Thank you for your time, gentlemen.

PETERS: Don't even say it, Race. I'll know better than to deal with you again.

RACE: So will I, Peters. □





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RINGSIDE

(Continued from page 11)

anything but destroying the Coles and then winning the World titles."

The WCW and NWA World tag team titles are held by **Steve Austin** and **Brian Pillman**, who, on March 2, defeated **Rick Steamboat** and **Shane Douglas** at the Coliseum in Macon, Georgia. Austin and Pillman might one day have to worry about The Bruise Brothers, but for now they're concerned with holding off the former champions.

An interesting sidelight to Bruise-Cole feud. The brothers are identical twins!

Unfortunately, some feuds never end. In this case, it's terribly unfortunate because **"Superfly" Jimmy Snuka** and South African madman **Col. DeBeers** are at it again, this time in Championship Wrestling USA. Snuka has the upper hand in this on-again, off-again feud, but don't expect DeBeers to give up.



Col. DeBeers and "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka have resumed their long-running feud in the Championship Wrestling USA area.

Again, the undercurrent of this feud is racial hatred: DeBeers is a bigot. And Snuka refuses to turn the other cheek.

First **Roddy Piper**, then **Hulk Hogan**, now **The Ultimate Warrior**.



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Mr. Hughes has been very active recently, competing both in the WWF and the WWC, where he has challenged Universal champion Carlos Colon.

The hyperactive muscleman is off to Hollywood. The Warrior signed an entertainment deal with International Creative Management and has started filming *Fire Power*.

Tony Rumble is now managing **Texas Animal** in the Global Wrestling Federation . . . **Mr. Hughes**, the former bodyguard, is now wrestling in the WWF and the World Wrestling Council. Hughes challenged WWC Universal champion **Carlos Colon** . . . **Hercules** signed with New Japan Pro Wrestling.

Stars old and new are competing in American Championship Wrestling. **Vladimir Koloff**, the nephew of

Ivan Koloff, is a fan favorite and one-half of the ACW tag team champions with **Mighty Atar**. ACW champion **Jimmy Garvin** is feuding with **The Eagle**, but former NWA World champion **Tommy Rich** is also after Garvin.

A final note: A trust fund has been established for the daughters of Kerry Von Erich. Donations for **Holly Von Erich**, 8, and **Lacy Von Erich**, 6, may be sent to: Kerry Memorial Fund, c/o Pierson & Ray, Attorneys, 101 East Randol Mill Road, Suite 105, Arlington, Texas, 76011.

That's all for now. See you at ringside! □

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BETWEEN FALLS

(Continued from page 9)



Others may laugh or cry about Doink the Clown, but *PWT Hotline* caller Lisa Bell thinks the rule-breaking clown is a tremendous wrestler, as well as a master of psychological warfare.

Hulk Hogan? Well, it looks like Hogan has finally answered the question himself. Can it be a mere coincidence that Hogan chose to "retire" shortly after Flair's arrival in the WWF and then made his "comeback" two weeks after the "Nature Boy" departed the federation? I think not.

For years, we were told how Hogan wanted to wrestle Flair and that Flair was happy to remain in the NWA and avoid him. But now all you "puke-a-maniacs" out there better get used to the fact that when Flair made the play and forced Hogan's hand, it was Hulk who ran scared! This proves once and for all that Ric Flair was, is, and always will be "The Man." Hogan is just an overrated, overblown, Flair-dodging coward.

STEVE V. GREENSLADE
South Wales, UK

DOINK-A-MANIA?

I don't care what your magazines say. I don't care what the rest of the fans say. And I certainly don't care what the wrestlers in the WWF say (or grunt). Doink the Clown is the hottest wrestler in the federation today.

Who cares if Hulk Hogan is back? He's old hat. His act is overplayed and overexposed. Doink, on the other hand, is a superbly skilled wrestler who complements his tremendous mat skills with psychological warfare.

While his opponents are perplexed by his appearance, Doink overtakes them with lightning-quick takedowns and submission holds. It's nothing short of sheer brilliance. Look out, Hogan. Doink-a-Mania is gonna run wild on you!

LISA BELL
San Francisco □

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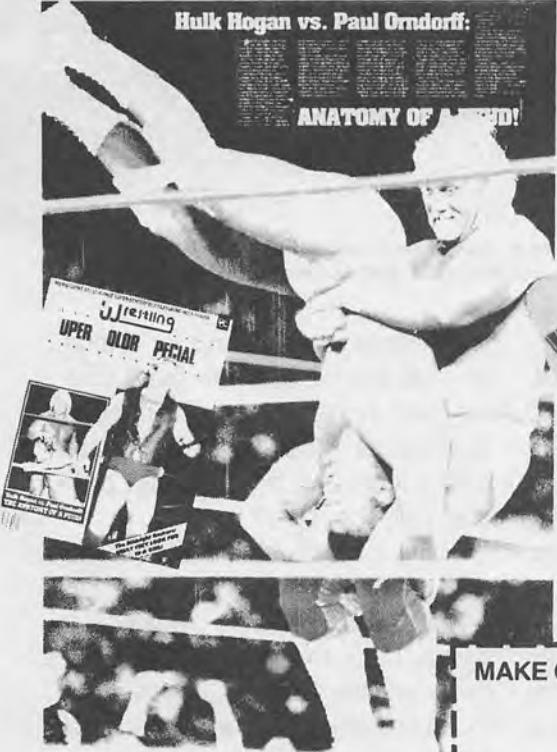
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WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW

(Continued from page 12)

Schyster's wrath, Hogan willingly overlooked the dozens of times Hart had sent men like King Kong Bundy and Terry Funk after him.

The impulse is to grab Hogan, slap him around a few times, and scream *What's the matter with you?*

Beefcake has more of a reason to be grateful: Hart actually saved him from bodily harm. But if Brutus is making Hart his manager on the basis of gratitude, he is just as mistaken as his partner.

Johnny Valiant, Beefcake's manager in the mid-1980s, argues that even though Brutus had a reputation as one of the nastiest men of the sport, he could at times be gullible.

"I remember a big match we had lined up against Hillbilly Jim," Valiant recalled. "Well, a couple of days before, we heard a rumor that Hillbilly wanted to make peace. Of course it turned out to be false, but Brutus seemed real eager to believe it. He was almost begging me to call the guy. I knew there was no way Hillbilly would let us slide after all the things we'd done to him, but Brutus thought he would."

So there's an explanation for Beefcake. An explanation, not a justification. Here's another explanation for The Megamaniacs' choice of Hart: He is one of the great tag team managers of all-time.

The reputation is well-deserved. Among Hart's World championship teams are The Hart Foundation, The Nasty Boys, and, of course, Money Inc.

Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart simply were two very good singles wrestlers before Hart made the Foundation a very great tag team. Money Inc.'s title reign lasted a lot longer than it should have. And who thought the Nasties would



As a tag team manager, Hart has been a tremendous success, leading teams like Money Inc. to championship glory. While his strategies may help Hogan and Beefcake immensely, his past suggests that he may also turn against them.

ever win World belts?

Hogan and Beefcake add that, because Hart knows DiBiase and IRS so well, he will be an invaluable aid to them in plotting strategies that take into account Money Inc.'s strengths and weaknesses.

Some of the reasons make sense. Some don't. The fact remains that Hogan and Beefcake are taking an amazingly big risk in putting their careers into the hands of a man who has done them so much harm in the past.

The risk is too great. If Hart turns against The Megamaniacs, Hogan comes out of this looking like a dope. And he'll deserve to. He knows Hart too well to be surprised by anything he does.

Beefcake is taking an even greater risk. Hart may be leading him down the path to serious injury. Imagine the horror if all along

Hart was setting him up for another crushing blow to the face. Brutus and Hogan like to claim that Beefcake's "titanium steel" face is stronger now, but how can anyone truly be sure?

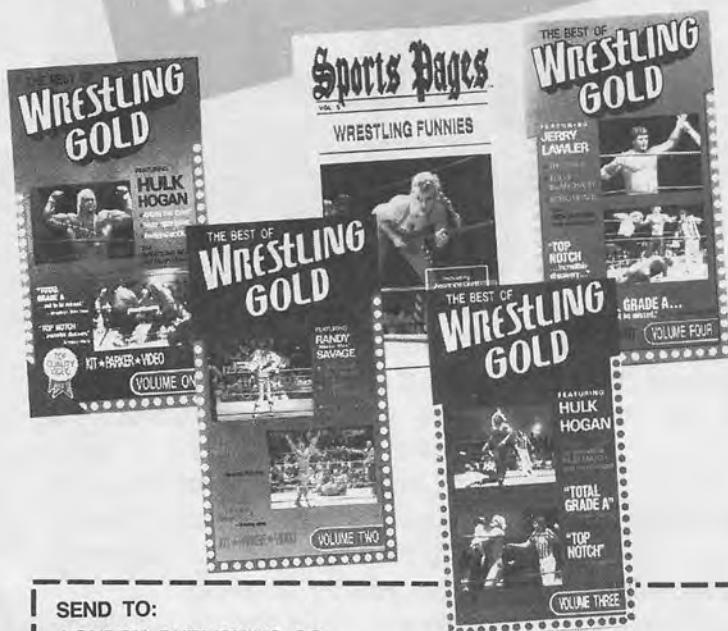
Think of this, too: For the first time in his career, Hart is a fan favorite. He is not making a switch back to the good side. He has dedicated his managerial life to destroying the reputations of fan favorites and bolstering the careers of some really bad folks.

There is too much in Hart's past to suggest that he's doing anything but playing a big con game. Guess who wins.

Sure, Hart looks great in red and yellow. The problem is, the red represents the blood he has caused to be spilled and the yellow represents his own cowardice. □

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Eddie Gilbert and his younger brother Doug are feuding—and their father Tommy doesn't know what to do about it. The elder Gilbert admits that both Eddie and Doug can be unsavory characters.

a double-team maneuver, they had fallen completely out of synch. Tags seemed to come a few seconds late, their timing was off, matches were becoming increasingly difficult to win. They were obviously not pleased with the situation or with each other.

It all came apart during a TV taping in Memphis when Eddie was late for a scheduled tag team match. Doug was miffed and stated his feelings during a TV interview. When Eddie finally arrived, he explained to his younger brother that his flight was late. Doug didn't want to hear about it. When he continued his bitter tirade, Eddie tried to convince him that it would be better if they discussed their problems in private. When he turned his back to leave the set, Doug attacked.

"I saw it all on TV, along with a million other people," Tommy said. "I got sick to my stomach."

At this point, the father doesn't know which son to blame; he's spoken in depth to both of them.

"Doug initiated the attack, so he comes out looking bad," Tommy said. "But Eddie, as we all know, is not exactly an angel."

Several years ago, in fact, Tommy and Eddie stopped speaking to one another because Eddie insisted on mashing the rulebook in the same area where Tommy was head referee. Tommy was so embarrassed by his son's actions, he publicly disowned him. It took several months for them to reconcile.

"Eddie can be a real son of a gun," Tommy said when I asked him to recall that dark period. "He's very manipulative, and I mean with everyone. He'll keep pushing and pushing until you either give in or turn against him. Doug turned against him."

"But don't get me wrong," Tom-

my continued, "I don't condone what Doug did. He knows what Eddie's about, and he should have been smart enough to keep out of this situation."

The two brothers did more than not speak to one another; they brought their differences into the ring. They signed a contract for a loser-leaves-town match that allows the loser back into the area only if the winner gives his okay. Eddie, who has managed to manipulate



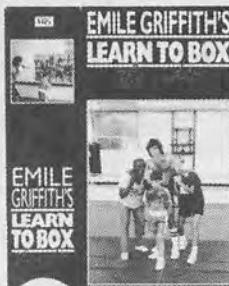
Doug initiated the feud when he blindsided Eddie during a TV interview. Tommy is confident his sons will settle their differences.

the fans to his side despite continuing to employ some of the cruelest tactics ever seen, won the match after throwing a fireball at his brother's chest.

Tommy Gilbert didn't watch the match, but he did have it videotaped. "I haven't watched it," he said, "but someday, when Eddie and Doug do work things out, I'm going to show it to them, so maybe this kind of thing won't happen again."

I don't think this tape will ever be welcome on the shelf of special Gilbert memories. □

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FLORIDA

TAMPA—ICWA at the Sportatorium: Mr. Mickey Jay beat TV champion Mr. Nice in a non-title match ... The Surgeon General defeated Big Bill Tyree ... In a match in which the loser was handcuffed to the ropes and received 10 lashes, Jim Backlund beat Mark Starr ... Tag team champions The Southern Posse wrestled The Latin Express to a double-countout in a no-disqualification match ... The Cuban Assassin beat Brett Sawyer to win the held-up heavyweight title.

(03-11-92)

—Shannon Rose

TAMPA—ICWA at the Sportatorium: Big Bill Tyree defeated Mad Bill Pain ... Mr. Mickey Jay beat The Stormtrooper in a no-disqualification match ... TV champion Mr. Nice defeated Mr. Electricity by disqualification ... In a non-title strap match, Jim Backlund beat WING junior heavyweight champion Mark Starr ... Tag team champions The Southern Posse defeated The Latin Express by disqualification ... Heavyweight champion The Cuban Assassin wrestled Brett Sawyer to a no-contest, after which the belt was held up.

(03-04-92)

—Shannon Rose

JACKSONVILLE—WCW at the Coliseum: Shanghai Pierce & Tex Slazenger beat Joey Maggs & Marcus Alexander Bagwell ... Vinnie Vegas pinned Erik Watts, but used the ropes for leverage ... The Wrecking Crew defeated Johnny Gunn & Tom Zenk ... 2 Cold Scorpio pinned Chris Benoit ... Paul Orndorff defeated Cactus Jack ... U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes defeated Barry Windham in a bunkspace match ... World champion Big Van Vader defeated Sting by disqualification ... World tag team champi-

ons Shane Douglas & Rick Steamboat defeated Brian Pillman & Steve Austin when Douglas pinned Austin.

(02-19-92)

—Ron Lemieux

LIVE OAK—WCW at Live Oak High School: Van Hammer defeated Vinnie Vegas ... Erik Watts pinned Tex Slazenger ... Marcus Alexander Bagwell beat Shanghai Pierce ... The Wrecking Crew defeated Tom Zenk & Johnny Gunn ... Cactus Jack defeated Paul Orndorff ... U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes defeated Barry Windham.

(02-19-92)

—Ed Dennis

GEORGIA

MACON—WCW at the Coliseum: Steve Austin & Brian Pillman beat Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas to win the World tag team belts when Pillman pinned Steamboat ... Erik Watts beat Vinnie Vegas in a WCW TV title tournament semifinal ... Paul Orndorff pinned Erik Watts in the tournament final to win the vacant TV title ... U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes beat Rip Rogers ... Paul Orndorff pinned Chuck Coates ... Davey Boy Smith defeated Mike Thor ... Maxx Payne beat Joey Maggs ... Dustin Rhodes battled Paul Orndorff to a double-countout ... Rick Steamboat, Shane Douglas, & Dustin Rhodes beat Steve Austin, Brian Pillman, & Barry Windham when Steamboat pinned Pillman ... Paul Orndorff beat Brad Anderson ... 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell beat The Wrecking Crew.

(03-03-92)

—Ed Crawford

KENTUCKY

LOUISVILLE—USWA at Louisville Gardens: Eddie Gilbert pinned Doug Gilbert ... Dutch Mantel beat Brian Christopher by disqualification ... Southern champion Jeff Jarrett beat The Rock 'n' Roll Phantom II ... USWA champion Jerry Lawler battled Randy Savage to a double-countout.

(03-09-92)

—Sean Underhill

LOUISVILLE—WWF at Louisville

Gardens: Terry Taylor beat Reno Riggins ... Crush forced Skinner to submit ... Giant Gonzales beat Virgil ... Nasty Boy Jerry Sags defeated Irwin R. Schyster ... Doink pinned Tito Santana ... "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig beat Papa Shango ... Damian Demento beat Jim Powers ... World champion Bret Hart defeated Bam Bam Bigelow.

(03-06-92)

—Sean Underhill

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO—WCW at UIC Pavilion: 2 Cold Scorpio beat Scotty Flamingo ... Maxx Payne defeated Rip Rogers ... Vinnie Vegas beat Van Hammer in an arm-wrestling contest ... Erik Watts & Steve Regal beat Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce ... Van Hammer defeated Vinnie Vegas ... Paul Orndorff defeated Cactus Jack ... In a non-title match, NWA champion Barry Windham beat U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes ... World champion Big Van Vader beat Sting ... Tag team champions Shane Douglas & Rick Steamboat beat Brian Pillman & Steve Austin.

(02-28-92)

—Jack Ferm

ROSEMONT—WWF at the Rosemont Horizon: Tito Santana beat The Predator ... Virgil beat Repo Man ... Bob Backlund beat Papa Shango ... Randy Savage defeated Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels by disqualification ... World tag team champions Money Inc. beat The Nasty Boys ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat The Beverly Brothers ... The Undertaker beat Yokozuna by disqualification.

(02-20-92)

—Lenny Hovis

MARYLAND

DUNDALK—Mid-Atlantic Wrestling Federation at the Steel Town Entertainment Complex: Mark Osbourne beat The Russian Assassin ... Zoltar beat Reggie Royce ... A.C. Golden defeated Axl Rotten ... MAWF champion Lucifer defeated Joe Thunder ... The Outrageous Ones beat The Sonic Express to win the MAWF tag team title ... The Lightning Kid beat Jimmy Jannetty by disqualification ... Bob Starr beat C.C. Danger ... The Cream

This special feature is for all fans who want to know who won and who lost...and how. In it, we present results from a full month of action across the nation and around the world, culled from the pages of the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletter; readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

Team beat The Tokyo Terrors ... Ramblin' Rich defeated T-Bone Strong ... Sasheem pinned Trent Young. (03-06-92)

—Sidney Johnson III

BALTIMORE—WCW at the Arena: Erik Watts & Steve Regal beat Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce when Regal pinned Slazenger ... 2 Cold Scorpio pinned Scotty Flamingo ... Van Hammer pinned Vinnie Vegas ... In a lumberjack match, Cactus Jack pinned Paul Orndorff ... U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes beat NWA champion Barry Windham by disqualification in a match in which only Rhodes' title was on the line ... Tag team champions Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas beat Brian Pillman & Steve Austin when Douglas pinned Pillman ... World champion Big Van Vader pinned Sting in no-disqualification match. (02-25-92)

—Timothy A. Walker

LANDOVER—WWF at the Capital Centre: Damian Demento pinned Jim Powers ... The Headshrinkers beat High Energy when Fatu pinned Owen Hart ... Tatanka pinned Skinner ... Kamala pinned Kim Chee ... "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig pinned Doink the Clown (substituting for Razor Ramon) ... World champion Bret Hart pinned Bam Bam Bigelow. (02-20-92)

—Ray Ney

MASSACHUSETTS

GRAFTON—Independent card at the high school: Killer Kowalski beat The Honky Tonk Man by disqualification ... Chris Duffy battled Tony Roy to a time-limit draw ... Rosebud & Smoky Thing beat Brittany Brown & Hercules Hutchins ... Terror Rising beat Smooth Operator ... Bulldozer battled Mad Dog Richard to a double-disqualification ... Perry Saturn beat Tim McMeany. (03-06-92)

—Tony DiMona

MICHIGAN

AUBURN HILLS—WWF at The Palace: Skinner pinned Jim Powers ...

Crush beat Papa Shango ... Virgil beat Terry Taylor ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Typhoon ... Randy Savage beat Jerry Lawler by countout ... Kamala pinned Kim Chee ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated The Beverly Brothers ... The Undertaker beat Yokozuna by disqualification. (02-27-92)

—Brad McMillian

DETROIT—WCW at Cobo Arena: Erik Watts & Steve Regal beat Shanghai Pierce & Tex Slazenger ... Maxx Payne beat Denny Kass ... Van Hammer pinned Vinnie Vegas ... 2 Cold Scorpio beat Scotty Flamingo ... Paul Orndorff beat Cactus Jack ... In a non-title match, NWA champion Barry Windham beat U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes ... World champion Big Van Vader beat Sting by disqualification ... Brian Pillman & Steve Austin beat tag team champions Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas by disqualification. (02-27-92)

—Frank Miller

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS—WWF at the Target Center: Doink beat Typhoon ... "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig defeated Razor Ramon ... The Headshrinkers beat High Energy ... Kamala defeated Kim Chee ... World champion Bret Hart beat Bam Bam Bigelow. (02-19-92)

—Ron Joseph

MISSOURI

COLUMBIA—WWF at the Hearnes Center: Terry Taylor pinned Stevie Ray following a powerslam ... Crush defeated Skinner by submission ... Giant Gonzales pinned Virgil ... Nasty Boy Jerry Sags pinned Irwin R. Schyster following a rollup. Schyster had scored a pin with his feet on the ropes, but it was disallowed ... Damian Demento pinned Jim Powers following a neckbreaker ... Curt Hennig pinned Papa Shango with an inside cradle ... Doink the Clown pinned Tito Santana ... WWF World champion Bret Hart pinned Bam Bam Bigelow. (03-05-92)

—Sheila Brynjulfson

NEW YORK

GLEN HEAD—IWCCW at North Shore High School: Gino Caruso pinned Tex Mex ... Makumba pinned The Rockin' Rebel ... Ray Odyssey defeated Flex Lavender ... Tommy Dreamer won a 15-man battle royal, eliminating Chris Candido to win ... IWCCW tag team champions The Sioux War Party beat Jimmy Deo & L.A. Gore ... The Tasmaniac beat Chris Candido ... Greg Valentine pinned Tommy Dreamer with his feet on the ropes. (03-05-92)

—Terry Senercia

NEW YORK—WWF Monday Night Raw at the Manhattan Center: Curt Hennig beat Rick Martel ... Lex Luger defeated P.J. Walker ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Duane Gill & Barry Hardy ... World tag team champions Money Inc. beat Tito Santana & Virgil when Irwin R. Schyster pinned Virgil ... Tatanka beat Phil Apollo ... Papa Shango defeated Mike Edwards ... Bob Backlund defeated Tony DePalio ... World champion Bret Hart beat Fatu by submission ... Doink the Clown beat Koko B. Ware by submission. (03-01-92)

—Haley Robbins

UNIONDALE—WWF at the Nassau Coliseum: Virgil beat Terry Taylor ... Bam Bam Bigelow beat Typhoon ... Kamala pinned Kim Chee ... Jerry Lawler pinned Big Bossman with his feet on the ropes ... Crush forced Papa Shango to submit ... Skinner beat Jim Powers ... The Undertaker beat Yokozuna by disqualification ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat The Beverly Brothers. (02-26-92)

—Robbie Steinert

NORTH CAROLINA

ELKIN—PWF at the Armory: PWF champion Italian Stallion defeated Austin Steele in a lumberjack match ... Junior heavyweight champion George South beat Cruel Connection II ... Flaming Youth & Star Ryder defeated Russian Assassin & Killdozer ... Scotty McKeever beat Gentleman James. (03-12-92)

—Frank Leary

RALEIGH—WCW at Dorton Arena: Steve Regal battled Vinnie Vegas to a time-limit draw ... Maxx Payne defeated Erik Watts ... 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell beat Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce ... Brad Armstrong pinned The Barbarian ... Cactus Jack pinned Paul Orndorff ... In a U.S. title match, U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes beat NWA champion Barry Windham ... World champion Big Van Vader beat Sting by disqualification ... World tag team champions Brian Pillman & Steve Austin beat Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas. (03-07-92)

—David Faber

ASHEVILLE—WCW's SuperBrawl III at the Civic Center: Brian Pillman & Steve Austin defeated Erik Watts & Marcus Alexander Bagwell when Pillman pinned Bagwell ... 2 Cold Scorpio pinned Chris Benoit following a rollup at 19:59, one second before time expired ... Davey Boy Smith pinned "Wild" Bill Irwin following a powerslam ... Cactus Jack defeated Paul Orndorff in a falls-count-anywhere match when he pinned Orndorff in the ring after blasting him with a shovel ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat The Heavenly Bodies when Robert Gibson pinned Tom Prichard after an attempt at outside interference by Bobby Eaton backfired ... U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes beat Maxx Payne (substituting for Ron Simmons) by disqualification when Payne pulled referee Mike Adkins into Rhodes ... Barry Windham pinned The Great Muta following a DDT to win the NWA title ... Big Van Vader beat Sting in a "White Castle Of Fear" strap match.

(02-21-92)

—Burton Crane

OREGON

PORLTAND—Championship Wrestling USA at the Sports Arena: Buddy Wayne beat Dane Rush by disqualification ... Bart Sawyer pinned Jesse Barr ... The Samoan Nightmares beat John Rambo & Nick Danger ... Hercules battled Max Steele to a no-contest ... C.W. Bergstrom & Larry Oliver beat Lou Andrews & Bruiser Brian when Bergstrom pinned Brian ... Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka pinned Col. DeBeers.

(03-06-92)

—Kenn Jones

PORLTAND—Championship Wrestling USA at the Sports Arena: Nick Danger fought to a 10-minute draw with Lou Andrews ... The Samoan Nightmares battled to a 15-minute draw with Mike Winner & Max Steele ... Jimmy Snuka beat John Rambo by disqualification when Col. DeBeers interfered ... Bart Sawyer beat Col. DeBeers by disqualification when DeBeers used a foreign object ... Mike Miller pinned Bruiser Brian ... C.W. Bergstrom & Larry Oliver beat Jesse Barr & Dane Rush when Bergstrom pinned Rush.

(02-27-92)

—Kenn Jones

TENNESSEE

MEMPHIS—USWA at Mid-South Coliseum: PG-13 beat Hurricane Hatchet & Miss Texas when Worfie D pinned Texas ... Dan Davis defeated J.C. Ice (Jamie Dundee) to win the middleweight title ... In a loser-leaves-town match, Eddie Gilbert beat Doug Gilbert after throwing fire at his chest ... Brian Christopher & Big Black Dog defeated The Moondogs to win the tag team title when Brian pinned Spot ... Southern champion Jeff Jarrett beat Scotty Flamingo ... Heavyweight champion Jerry

Lawler battled Randy Savage to a double-countout.

(03-08-92)

—Mark Mitchell

MEMPHIS—USWA at Mid-South Coliseum: A tournament to determine the first USWA middleweight champion went as follows: FIRST ROUND: Miss Texas defeated Leslie Belanger ... Jamie Dundee beat Hurricane Hatchet ... Master of Terror defeated Chris Michaels ... Dan Davis beat Worfie D ... SEMIFINALS: Dundee beat Miss Texas ... Davis defeated Master of Terror ... FINAL: Dundee beat Davis ... Doug Gilbert defeated Eddie Gilbert ... Jeff Jarrett beat Brian Christopher to win the Southern title ... In a no-time limit, no-disqualification match pitting Richard Lee's hair against Mike Samples' hair, Ron & Don Harris defeated The Moondogs when Don pinned Splash ... Jerry Lawler, Jeff Jarrett, & Giant Gonzales beat Ron & Don Harris & Brian Christopher when Gonzales pinned Christopher.

(03-01-92)

—Mark Mitchell

MORRISTOWN—All American Wrestling at Witt Elementary School: Keith Hart beat Eddie Golden ... Skyfire beat John Manson by disqualification ... Lover Boy Lyons defeated Steve Wallen ... The Mad Dogs beat The Young Guns ... Dan Cooley pinned The Assassin ... Ric Zee beat David O ... Mike Samson pinned Shogun Warrior ... Stan Lee beat J.D. Hogg ... The Young Guns beat The Wild Side ... Jimmy Valiant & Danny Million beat The Wild Samoan when Million pinned Samoan II.

(02-27-92)

—Bill Needham

JOHNSON CITY—Smoky Mountain at Freedom Hall: TV champion Tim Horner beat The Nightstalker ... Jimmy Golden beat Killer Kyle ... Tag team champions The Heavenly Bodies defeated The Stud Stable ... Brian Lee defeated Kevin Sullivan in a falls-count-anywhere bout ... Heavyweight champion "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony defeated Tracey Smothers by disqualification.

(02-21-92)

—Tim Meadows

DECATUR—Southern Wrestling Association at Meigs High School: Night Rider wrestled Alex Shan to a draw ... Mark Mosey pinned Jerry Manual ... Chic White & Tennessee Equalizer defeated Scott Taylor & Tim Buckner ... Sandman defeated Mike Powers ... Keith Hart, Tony Prichard, & Mark Posey defeated The Regulators & E.F. Hutton in a steel cage match.

(02-21-92)

—Bill Needham

TEXAS

DALLAS—GWF at the Sportatorium: Ray Evans pinned Chad Starr ... Calvin Knapp pinned Steven Dane after

interference by Alex Porteau ... Ian Rotten defeated Francis Buxton by countout ... In a Texas death match, Stevie Ray pinned Black Bart ... John Tatum pinned Terry Simms ... Chaz Taylor pinned Alex Porteau ... Chris Adams defeated Rod Price by disqualification ... Killer Brooks pinned Mike Davis in a cage match.

(03-12-92)

—Freddie Fargo

MESQUITE—United Wrestling Alliance at Villa Inn: Texas Animal pinned Chad Champion when his manager, Tony Rumble, sprayed a foreign substance in Champion's eyes ... Jimmy James & The Ebony Prince defeated The Unknown & The Crusher when James pinned Unknown ... King Kong & Awesome Kong defeated Pat Kealoha & Chris Barrett when King pinned Kealoha ... Iceman Parsons & Action Jackson defeated Alex Porteau & Ray Evans when Parsons pinned Evans ... Scotty Braddock battled John Hawk to a double-disqualification.

(03-10-92)

—Kevin Boswell

DALLAS—Big D Championship Wrestling at the Rocket Palace: Ray Evans beat Chad Almont ... Terry Simms defeated Rod Price by disqualification ... Chris Adams beat King Kong ... Bobby Duncum Jr. & John Hawk beat Gary Young & John Tatum.

(02-28-92)

—Freddie Fargo

DALLAS—GWF at the Sportatorium: Kit Carson pinned Tex Toby ... Terry Simms wrestled Johnny Mantell to a time-limit draw ... Light heavyweight champion Calvin Knapp beat Alex Porteau ... Booker T pinned Ian Rotten ... Chris Adams beat Black Bart ... Ian Rotten pinned Chad Starr ... Killer Brooks battled Mike Davis to a no-contest ... Stevie Ray pinned John Tatum.

(02-26-92)

—Freddie Fargo

VIRGINIA

STUARTS DRAFT—American Championship Wrestling: Rolling Thunder pinned Johnny Blast ... Jimmy White pinned Bruiser Bob Ross following a DDT ... The Terminator (managed by Wildside Inc.) pinned Ray Storm with a small package ... Bu Maddox pinned Roger Anderson following a "Frankensteiner" ... Wahoo McDaniel & Doug Gibson defeated Joe Powers & Eclipso in a Texas death match when McDaniel pinned Eclipso.

(02-28-92)

—Anne See

WEST VIRGINIA

COWEN—PWF at the elementary school: PWF champion Italian Stallion beat Austin Steele ... Junior heavy-

weight champion George South beat Cruel Connection II ... Scotty McKeever beat Mad Dog ... Gentleman James defeated Killdozer ... Flaming Youth beat Gladiator II. (03-06-92)

—Thomas North

POINT PLEASANT—PWF at Point Pleasant High School: Heavyweight champion Italian Stallion defeated Austin Steele ... Junior heavyweight champion George South beat Scotty McKeever ... Tag team champions Flaming Youth & Star Ryder beat Cruel Connection I & II when Youth pinned II ... Gladiator II beat Mad Dog. (02-27-92)

—Howard Luckman

INTERNATIONAL



AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY—Australian Wrestling Federation at the Music Hall: Greg Smith beat A.J. Freely ... Mark Mercedes beat Bobby Blaze ... Joe & Dean Malenko beat Con Iakobities & Rico Fredrico ... Junkyard Dog battled Jim Neidhart to a double-disqualification ... Jushin Liger pinned Chris Benoit ... Con Iakobities won a 14-man battle royal ... In a match to determine the first AWF heavyweight champion, Jake Roberts pinned Don Muraco. (03-04-92)

—Frank Shanley

BRISBANE—AWF World Class Wrestling at the Arena: Bobby Blaze beat Rico Fredrico ... Con Iakovidis beat A.J. Freely ... Joe & Dean Malenko defeated Mark Mercedes & Greg Smit ... Junkyard Dog beat Don Muraco ... Jushin Liger defeated Chris Benoit ... Jim Neidhart beat Jake Roberts. (02-25-92)

—Frank Shanley

CANADA

CLOVERDALE, BRITISH COLUMBIA—West Coast Championship Wrestling at the Cloverdale Arena: Randy Tyler beat Mike Roselli ... Charlie Cannuck beat Randy Taylor ... Rocky DeLasare beat Verne Seibert by countout ... The Mighty Quinn defeated The Wild Samoan Hitman ... Moondog Moretti defeated Buddy Wayne ... "Diamond" Timothy Flowers beat Michelle Starr ... Ole Olsen & Firefighter Adrian beat Akam Singh & Mr. Tomko when Olsen pinned Singh ... In a 15-man battle royal for \$1,000, Moondog Moretti & "Diamond" Timothy Flowers refused to eliminate each

other and split the prize. (03-13-92)

—Stuart Kemp

ENGLAND

MANCHESTER—WCW at the G/Mex Center: Johnny B. Badd beat Scotty Flamingo ... Maxx Payne beat Michael Hayes ... Davey Boy Smith pinned Vinnie Vegas ... Rick Rude defeated Van Hammer ... Big Van Vader beat Cactus Jack ... World champion Sting beat Paul Orndorff. (03-13-92)

—Ben Ford

LONDON—WCW at Wembley Arena: Sting pinned Big Van Vader to win the WCW World championship ... Davey Boy Smith beat Rick Rude by disqualification ... Van Hammer pinned Scotty Flamingo ... Johnny B. Badd beat Vinnie Vegas ... Maxx Payne beat Cactus Jack ... In a non-title match, U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes battled NWA champion Barry Windham to a double-countout ... TV champion Paul Orndorff beat Michael Hayes. (03-11-92)

—Colin Bowman

NORWICH—All-Star at the Corn Exchange: Chic Cullen defeated "Iron" Mike Roberts ... Frankie Sloane battled Sandy Scott to a no-contest ... The American Avalanche (formerly known as P.N. News) defeated Giant Haystacks by disqualification ... The Super Flys defeated Mad Dog Wilson & Mickey Gold. (02-13-92)

—John Bultitude

FRANCE

NEVERS—European Wrestling Federation at Maison de Sports: Zaire champion Prince Zefy wrestled Jessy Texas to a draw ... The Cannonball defeated heavyweight champion Flash Gordon by disqualification ... The Travesti Man beat Roland DeVancouver ... French women's champion Brigitte Borne pinned Belgium champion Leo Dether ... Flash Gordon, Roland DeVancouver, & Price Zefy defeated Jesse Texas, The Cannonball, & Travesti Man in a six-man elimination match. (02-19-92)

—Robert Edlhauser

JAPAN

OFUNATO—New Japan Pro Wrestling at the Gymnasium: TNT, Hercules, & Scott Norton beat Akira Nogami, The Great Muta, & Riki Choshu ... Osamu Kido & Masa Chono beat Horace Boulder & Tony St. Clair ... The Great Kabuki & Shiro Koshinaka defeated Tatsumi Fujinami & Takiyuki Iizuka ... Pegasus Kid & Dean Malenko beat Jushin Liger & El Samurai. (03-11-92)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

NOSHIRO—New Japan Pro Wrestling at the Gymnasium: Horace Boulder, TNT, & Scott Norton beat Takayuki Iizuka, The Great Muta, & Tatsumi Fujinami ... Masa Chono & Riki Choshu defeated The Great Kabuki & Toshi Aoyagi ... Hiro Saito, Tarzan Goto, & Super Strong Machine beat Akitoshi Saito, Kuniaki Kobayashi, & Rusher Kimura ... Tony St. Clair & Hercules defeated The Black Cat & Akira Nogami ... El Samurai, Jushin Liger, & Osamu Kido defeated Norio Honaga, Pegasus Kid, & Dean Malenko ... Nishimura beat Yuji Nagata ... Satoru Kojima defeated Takimatsu Ishizawa. (03-10-92)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

MAY											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					

CANADA

EDMONTON—NAWA at the Pavilion: Dave Ruhl battled Mighty Ursus to a time-limit draw ... George Torontos pinned Rick Renaldo ... John Foti pinned Jack Kris ... Sandor Kovacs pinned Bill Wright ... Killer Kowalski pinned Count Bruga. (05-29-62)

—PWI archives

TORONTO—Independent at Maple Leaf Gardens: Fred Atkins battled Murray Cummings to a time-limit draw ... Eric the Red defeated Ron Johnson ... The Oklahoma Kid pinned Rusty Runnels ... Tiger Jeet Singh pinned Dan Miller ... Whipper Watson & Bulldog Brower defeated Wild Bull Curry & Dutch Momberg by disqualification ... The Assassin defeated Edouard Carpentier by countout. (05-12-68)

—The Toronto Star

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: Akira Maeda pinned Rene Goulet ... Jesse Ventura pinned Salvatore Bellomo ... Women's World champion Fabulous Moolah defeated Cowgirl Shaloo ... Mr. Fuji & Tiger Chung Lee defeated B. Brian Blair & Tony Garea ... The Wild Samoans defeated Bobo Brazil, Rocky Johnson, & S.D. Jones ... Jimmy Snuka defeated Greg Valentine by disqualification ... Roddy Piper beat Ivan Putski by disqualification ... Paul Orndorff defeated Intercontinental champion Tito Santana by disqualification ... In a boot camp match, Sgt. Slaughter battled The Iron Sheik to a double-disqualification ... George Steele pinned Terry Daniels ... World champion Hulk Hogan pinned "Dr. D" David Shultz. (05-21-84)

—Chris Crystal

OFF THE TOP ROPE

(Continued from page 18)

Dear Sandy,

It so happened that because of an unusual overlap of work and promotion, the three wrestlers you mention happened to be stuck in the Canton area during that week, and would have loved to have given your best friend the surprise of her life. Unfortunately, because you failed to include either an address or phone number, I could not reach you to make arrangements. Not to fret: Most likely another opportunity like this will occur in the year 2036, at which time your friend can wipe Hart's chin clean from the food that comes drooling from his toothless mouth. See you then.

Dear Eddie,

I am of the opinion that Curt Hennig is the best wrestler in the world. His "perfectplex" is the best finishing maneuver in the business. What is your opinion?

JUSTIN D. PAGONA
Lynn, MA

Dear Justin,

It was nearly 10 years ago that I traveled to your sleepy hometown of Lynn with Bill Apter for my first-ever

road trip. Back then I was still in awe of "Bronco Bill" and remember how embarrassed I was when we arrived in our hotel room and I realized the stench following us from the airport did not come from the nearby garbage dump, but from the man whose twin bed was but three feet from mine. That night, Kerry Von Erich treated reporters to a wild, rambling discourse on wrestling, responsibility, and Christianity. Jake Roberts shared that the loneliness of the road might be reduced by a pet; he was still considering what kind. Chris Adams had to be coaxed from the dressing room, as marital problems dominated his thoughts. Later, we sat peacefully at a Chinese restaurant and watched 465-pound One Man Gang actually say to a smallish waiter, "I'll take one of everything." Memories of Lynn. Curt Hennig? He wasn't there.

Dear Eddie,

I have been a fan of yours for years and appreciate your opinion for what it is: the truth. Having met several wrestlers, I was surprised that most "fan favorites" are such jerks. Just



I disagree with those who say Erik Watts' rookie year success came solely because his father, Bill Watts, was WCW vice president.

because a wrestler sticks to the rules doesn't necessarily make them a wonderful person. Additionally, voting for the year-end awards is tilted toward fan favorites. Case in point: Erik Watts capturing Rookie of the Year honors. One of these days, the fans will realize Erik is mediocre at best, though his father's influence was certainly first-rate. It gets depressing, which is why I admire the fact you've never backed down from a battle. As for me, I think I'll just eat a bag of Chee-tos and watch the *Home Shopping Club*.

SHAINA MARTIN
Grand Prairie, TX

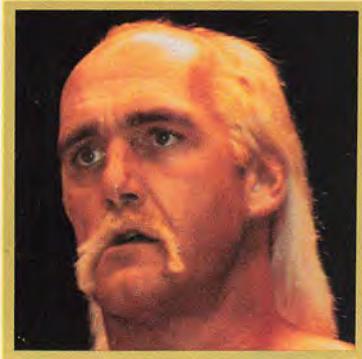
Dear Shaina,

First of all, just because you litter me with kind words doesn't mean I have to like you, or agree with you. I don't, on both counts. Bill Watts may not be able to run a federation, but he is an honest man and would never intervene on behalf of his son. Secondly, a sweet young thing like yourself shouldn't be home alone, stuffing her face with high-fat junk food, especially when a nice bunch of folks are having a party practically in your own neighborhood. Just hop on Highway 35, exit at Waco, and make a left by the FBI roadblock. When you get to the compound walls, tell them I sent you. □

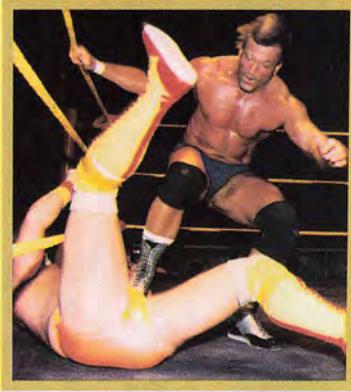


Resolved: "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig's "perfectplex" is a great finishing maneuver. However, I have more important things to write about. See above.

THIS MONTH IN...



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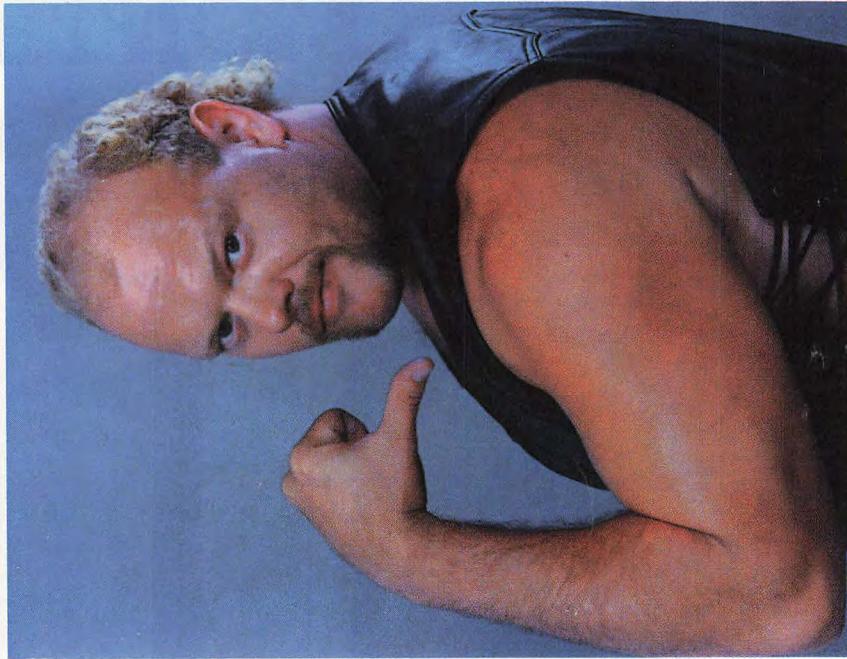
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WRESTLING

TONY WRIGHT

ANTHONY, WRIGHT BECOME YANKEES



Challenge Smothers To Chain Match

By CHRIS BERNUCCA

JOHNSON CITY, TN—Smoky Mountain heavyweight champion Tony Anthony and manager Ron Wright have challenged Tracey Smothers to the first Tennessee chain match in over 15 years.

Wright, the wheelchair-bound manager, was the unofficial “king of Tennessee chain matches” during his active years and has passed his coveted chain onto the “Dirty White Boy,” who has held the title since last August.

“It’s like a grandpa giving his old pocketknife to a grandchild,” Wright beamed.

At the same time, both Wright and Anthony have renounced their love of the South. The two

have moved to New York and become ‘yankees.’ Anthony, who lists his hometown as Bucksnort, Tennessee, now wears a New York Yankees jacket and cap to the ring. He burned Smothers’ Confederate flag prior to one of their matches.

Smothers has had some success against Anthony, pinning him in several non-title matches. The “Dirty White Boy” also has resorted to disqualification losses in a number of their bouts.

“I don’t understand these guys,” said Smothers. “They’re already two of the most hated men in wrestling, so they do something to make the fans hate them even more. But the fans are going to love it when I win the chain match—and the title!”

“Dirty White Boy” Tony Anthony has renounced his Southern heritage. He and his manager, Ron Wright, now refer to themselves as “yankees.”

Anderson Tracks Eaton From His High Horse

Duggan Returns, Defeats Demento

By ANDY RODRIGUEZ

AUGUSTA, GA—Jim "Hacksaw" Duggan returned to the WWF rings, defeating Damian Demento in his first match back from a severe injury.

Duggan pinned Demento on March 9 at a TV taping in Augusta, Georgia. The patriotic fan favorite had been sidelined since January 6, when he received a terrible beating in San Antonio, Texas, at the hands of title contender Yokozuna.

At that card, Duggan was the victim of three splashes, which knocked him unconscious. Yokozuna then draped the American flag over his injured foe, who was removed on a stretcher.

Duggan looked sharp against Demento, overcoming the confused rule-breaker with a series of clotheslines. With his role as announcer diminished, Duggan intends to resume with a full schedule of matches.

Later in the Augusta card, Duggan received a reminder of his injury when Yokozuna attacked WWF World



Bobby Eaton is feuding with Am Anderson.

By CRAIG PETERS

ATLANTA—Am Anderson began a feud with one former partner and rekindled a friendship with another as he returned from a knee injury.

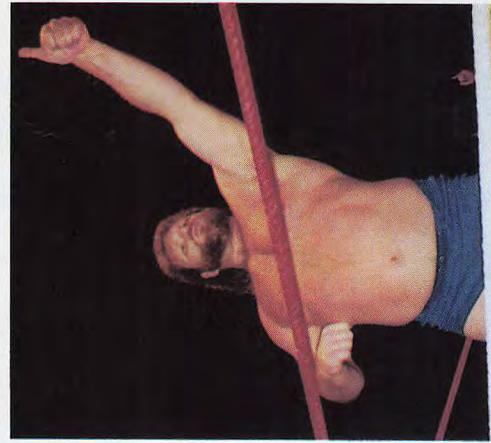
Anderson is feuding with Smoky Mountain TV champion Bobby Eaton, with whom he held the WCW World tag team title for four months in 1992.

Anderson has joined The Rock 'n' Roll Express in their feud against SMW tag team champions The Heavy Bodies, which includes Stan Lane, Tom Prichard, and Eaton.

Anderson was apparently upset that Eaton did not call him while he was rehabilitating a knee injury suffered in a brawl with Erik Watts at a gas station in Charlotte, North Carolina, in January.

Back in WCW, Anderson has welcomed the return of Ric Flair with open arms and has hinted at the reformation of The Four Horsemen, the rulebreaking stable which dominated the NWA/WCW in the late-1980s. Anderson and Flair were charter members of the group and remained teammates until its demise in 1990.

"I've got some unfinished business in WCW and Smoky Mountain," said Anderson. "And I don't intend to rest until it's finished."



Hacksaw Duggan has returned to action and refuses to let Yokozuna and Mr. Fuji silence him.

champion Bret Hart following a contract signing.

"You just have to block that stuff out," said a WWF fan favorite. "If you don't, you won't be wrestling very long."

Kid Gets Bid In Super Junior Tourny

By DAVE ROSENBAUM

TOKYO—Former GWF light heavyweight champion The Lightning Kid has been invited to compete in the "Top of the Super Junior" annual junior heavyweight tournament in Japan.

"It's a big thrill," said Kid, who will be competing in the prestigious tournament for the first time. "It's pretty awesome when you think of some of the other names involved."

Those names include Dean Malenko, Chris Benoit, Negro Casas, and defending champion Justin Liger, who

AROUND THE GLOBE

BAYAMON, PUERTO RICO

The newest manager in the World Wrestling Council is Rico Suave, who has assumed the stable left behind by Joe Don Smith. Suave has signed managerial deals with Killer Karl Wallace and the tag team Solid Gold, all former charges of Smith. Suave has also signed Mr. Hughes, the one-time bodyguard for former WCW World champion Lex Luger, and has maneuvered him into contention against Universal champion Carlos Colon.

FUKUOKA, JAPAN

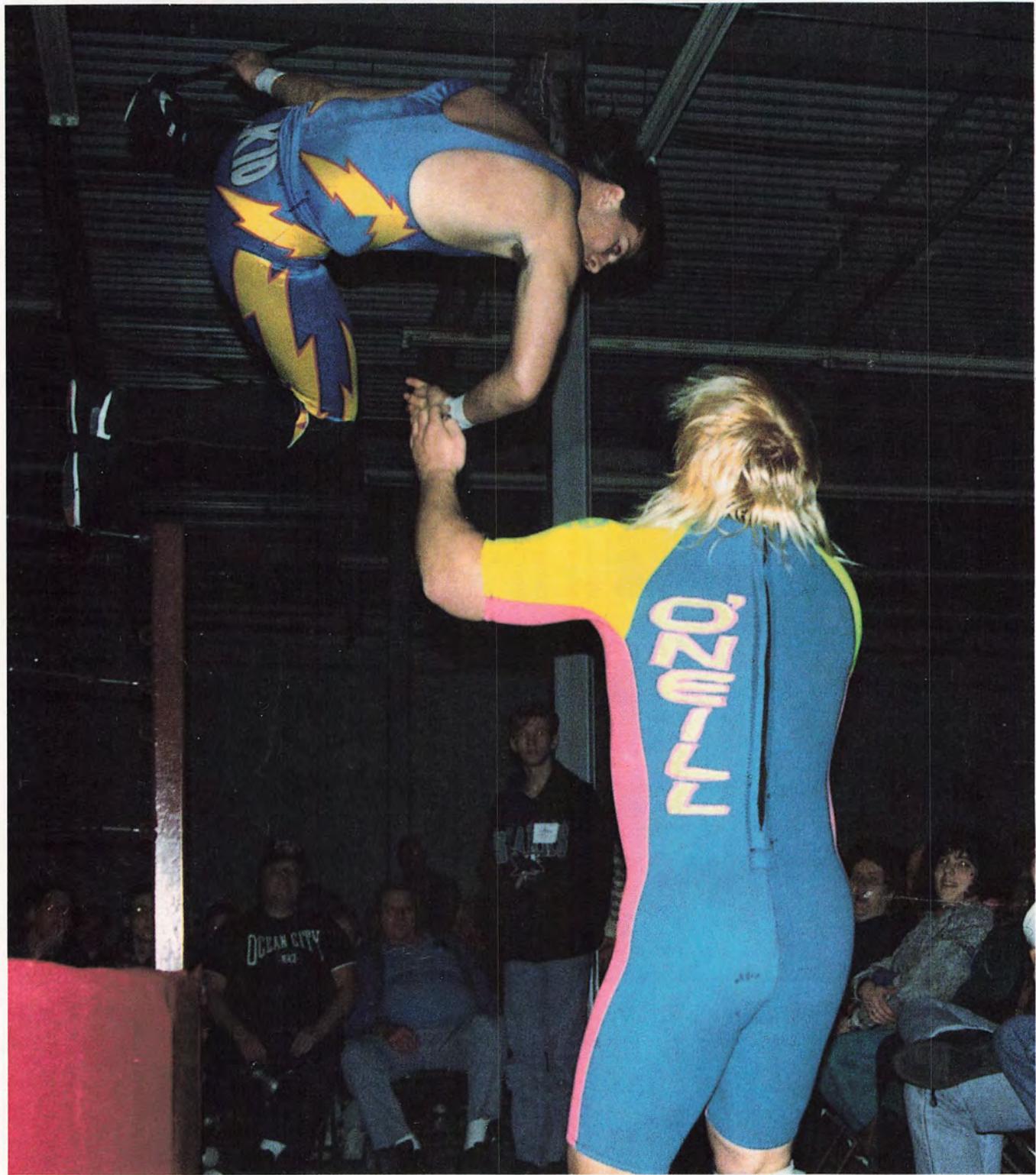
Although the lineup has not been released, sources reveal that the major card scheduled for May 3 at the Fukouka Dome will involve both Antonio Inoki and Hulk Hogan. The two could compete as tag team partners, or in singles matches against Genichiro Tenryu and The Great Muta, respectively. Despite the fact that the card has yet to be announced, over \$1-million in tickets were sold on the first day of availability.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Jake Roberts became the first Australian Wrestling Federation champion, defeating Don Muraco in a tournament final to win the belt. The inaugural tour was packed with plenty of international stars, including Justin Liger, Chris Benoit, Jim Neidhart, Junkyard Dog, and Dean Malenko. The AWF hopes to line up future tours, with more emphasis on Australian wrestlers.

"Hey, I've got as good a chance as anybody to win this thing," he said. "They wouldn't have invited me if they didn't think so."

HOT SHOT



If Ray Odyssey ever doubted The Lightning Kid's high-flying prowess, those doubts were put to rest in a big way with this amazing flip off the top rope. Depending on one's perspective, the move demonstrated Kid's courage, or his stupidity. Either way, the former Global light heavyweight champion, who is becoming quite popular in Japan as well, got up so high that he had to be worried he might hit his head on the ceiling. He definitely made Odyssey's odyssey a lot tougher.

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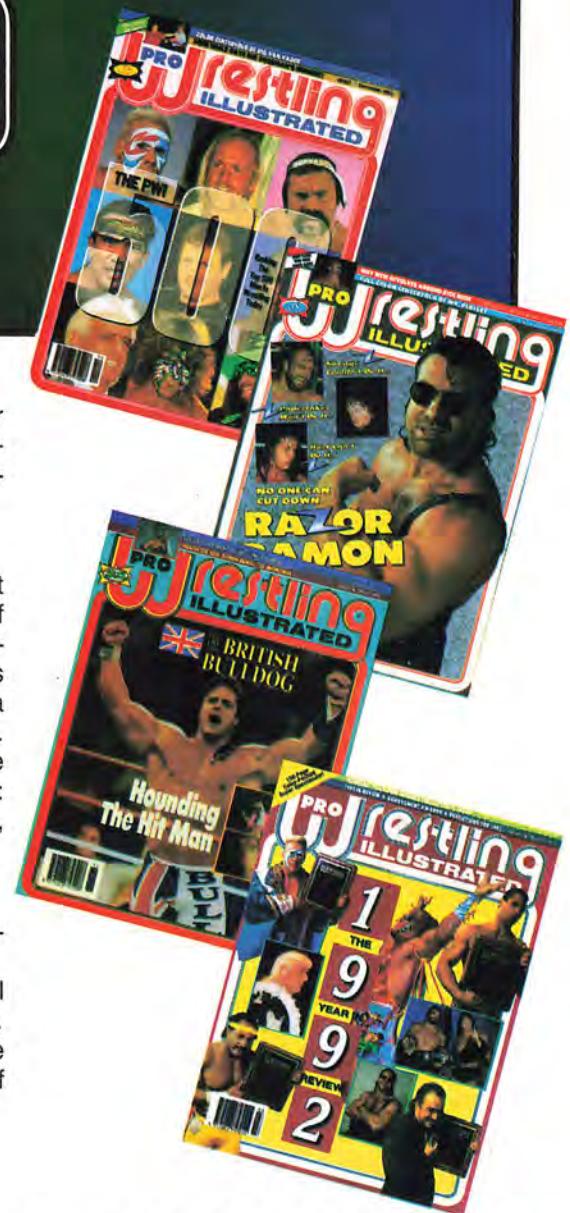
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